

alligator



VOLUME 112 ISSUE 62

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

Not officially associated with the University of Florida

Published by Campus Communications, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida

FEATURE FRIDAY:



AN UNEXPECTED LEADER

Elliott Nasby / Alligator

Dignity Village resident Rupert Heard, 55, from Toledo, Ohio, gives a tour of his camp fit for three. As camp leader, he manages his group's finances and stocks up on daily supplies.

At homeless camp, a man has become a leader to support others

By Elliott Nasby
Alligator Staff Writer

Rupert Heard used to sleep with a knife by his side.

With no one to watch his back while he lived in an abandoned building off Southwest 13th Street, he wanted to be prepared

in case he needed to defend himself.

Stuck alone in a place that wasn't his, he felt trapped in a lifestyle he never expected.

"I felt overwhelmed, like I didn't have any other options," Heard, 55, said. "There was a sense of hopelessness."

For about a week he drifted, hungry and alone in the November cold, until he fol-

lowed up with a friend who recommended Dignity Village, a homeless tent community of about 150 off of NE 39th Avenue, near the Gainesville Regional Airport.

Now, Heard ends each night around a small fire, breaking bread with his closest friends.

He wakes up in his neon yellow tent, rest-

ing for a second before he uses the camp's old kettle to brew his famous cup of coffee.

"A toast to Gainesville," Heard says over his raised coffee cup before reciting a daily prayer.

Although he never expected to be homeless, Heard said providing for his fellow Dig-

SEE FEATURE, PAGE 8

UF group to bring speaker who mocked Parkland survivors

By Jessica Giles
Alligator Staff Writer

Despite controversial tweets made by Dinesh D'Souza following the Parkland school shooting last week, student group Young Americans for Freedom still plan to invite him to speak on campus this April.

D'Souza, a conservative author and speaker, came under fire Tuesday after mocking survivors of the shooting in a series of tweets regarding the Florida legislature's decision to vote down a bill that would ban assault weapons. The UF chapter

of the organization still plans to invite D'Souza to speak on campus on April 12, according to its website. The event will cost \$15,000, the organization wrote in a Facebook message.

"University of Florida Young Americans for Freedom is proud to host conservative author, filmmaker, and speaker Dinesh D'Souza," the organization wrote in a statement.

UF spokesperson Margot Winick said UF doesn't have a contract with the speaker at this time, so the event is not confirmed. The Student Senate passed a resolution Jan. 23 that gave

\$5,100 to the organization for the D'Souza speaking event, according to Alligator archives. The Alligator couldn't confirm where the rest of the money for the event came from.

On Tuesday, D'Souza called a Stoneman Douglas student, who talked to media, "coached and also a bit deranged." He tweeted President Donald Trump should ignore "media-manufactured theatrics."

About two hours later, he shared an article about Florida lawmakers who rejected a bill to ban assault rifles. "Adults 1, kids 0," he wrote. He followed up with another tweet with

a picture of the students hearing the decision from lawmakers and wrote, "Worst news since their parents told them to get summer jobs."

He apologized the next day.

"While it aimed at media manipulation, my tweet was insensitive to students who lost friends in a terrible tragedy. I'm truly sorry," he tweeted.

The organization refused to comment on the tweets specifically but said its members were praying for the victims and families of the shooting.

"We are dedicated to educating students on the importance of our

constitutional freedoms including the second amendment," the statement reads.

Ian Kampert, a UF English junior, believes they should rescind D'Souza's invitation.

Although he would like UF to step in and prevent D'Souza from speaking, he's not sure they have the power.

"If they were unable to stop Richard Spencer from speaking, then Dinesh D'Souza is small potatoes compared to Richard Spencer," he said.

GATORS COLLAPSE IN FINAL HOME GAME

Florida's women's basketball team scored two points in the third quarter on the way 28-point loss to UT, pg. 14



Read coverage of the Tallahassee march

A survivor of the shooting plans on attending UF, pg. 9

Impact Party swept SG Spring elections

They took the executive ticket and majority of Student Senate seats, pg. 5

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Today's Weather



AM



NOON



PM

HIGH 83° LOW 61°

Local Events / News in Brief

WHAT'S HAPPENING

My Fulbright in 7 Minutes

UF Fulbright Programs invites everyone to "My Fulbright in 7 Minutes" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the UF International Center in The Hub. To RSVP, please email UFFulbrightRSVP@gmail.com. For more information, email mcardec@ufic.ufl.edu.

Spring Fling GatorNights

A Spring Fling GatorNights will be held Friday at the Reitz

Union. Hypnotist Daniel James will perform and the film "Coco" will be playing. GatorNights is always Friday, always free for UF students with their Gator 1 Card at the Reitz Union from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Gay Movie Night: TaeKwondo

The Gay Community Center of North Florida will hold a viewing of the movie at 7:30 p.m. today at 3131 NW 13 St. Gay Movie Night is on the last Friday of each month. A \$2 donation is requested to cover cost of snacks.



Have an event planned? Add it to the **alligator's** online calendar: alligator.org/calendar

Got something going on?

Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to jtavel@alligator.org. To request publication, please model your submission after the above events, and keep them to 150 words or fewer.

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

the independent florida alligator

VOLUME 112 ISSUE 62 ISSN 0889-2423

Not officially associated with the University of Florida
Published by Campus Communications Inc., of Gainesville, Florida

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The Independent Florida Alligator is a student newspaper serving the University of Florida, published by a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) educational organization, Campus Communications Inc., P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, Florida, 32604-2257. The Alligator is published Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, except during holidays and exam periods. During UF summer academic terms The Alligator is published Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Alligator is a member of the Newspaper Association of America, National Newspaper Association, Florida Press Association and Southern University Newspapers.

Subscription Rate: Full Year (All Semesters) \$100

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The Board of Directors of Campus Communications, Inc., publisher of



announces the opening of the following positions for the summer semester:

Editor

a paid position as head of the Editorial Division and as an unpaid member of the Board of Directors

Managing Editor/Print and Managing Editor/Online

paid positions and unpaid members of the Board of Directors.

The applications for these positions are available at the Alligator office, located at 2700 SW 13th Street, **each weekday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from now until Friday, March 2.** Look for the Alligator sign located in the lobby. Further written information is available at the time an application is picked up. No phone calls, please. Allow up to 15 minutes at that time to read information regarding the application process. The application must be returned to The Alligator by **Tuesday, March 13 at 4 p.m. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE.** Interviews and selections by the Board of Directors will be held at the new Alligator offices in a meeting open to the public on **Friday April 6 at 9 a.m.** Applicants must be present at that meeting to be considered. Applicants must be degree-seeking college or university students. Preference will be given to those who have experience with The Independent Florida Alligator.

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UPD: Student arrested for picking up cones, another for fraud

By Robert Lewis
Alligator Staff Writer

Nicholas John Jagodzinski, 19, was spotted picking up traffic cones by a University Police officer Wednesday night, according to a police report.

At about 10:30 p.m., near the intersection of Northwest 19th Street and Northwest First Avenue, Jagodzinski picked up two orange cones belonging to Bob's Barricades behind Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and University Lutheran Church, according to the report.

After his arrest, Jagodzinski said he took the cones to impress people watching, po-



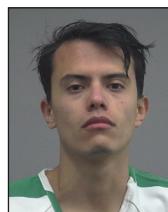
Jagodzinski

lice said. Jagodzinski is a UF sophomore engineering major, UF spokesperson John Hines wrote in an email.

Each cone was worth about \$20, according to the report. Jagodzinski faces a charge of petty theft. Jagodzinski was taken to the Alachua County Jail and later released after posting a \$500 bail. He could not be reached for comment.

-***

Juan Nicolas Pacheco, 20, was arrested after police responded to a call about some-



Pacheco

one being passed out on a bench Thursday morning.

At about 4 a.m. on the Northwest side of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, Pacheco was found covered in vomit and smelling of alcohol, according to an arrest report. He told police he had been out drinking and gave officers his Florida driver's license, according to the report.

While speaking to police, Pacheco took out his wallet and opened it, according to the report. Inside, police saw a Maryland driver's licence in the front clear slot.

"It's fake. It's fake," Pacheco told police, according to the report.

After his arrest, he told police he bought the license from ID God, according to the report.

Pacheco is a UF junior biomedical engineering major, UF spokesperson John Hines wrote in an email.

Pacheco was arrested on a charge of fraud for possession of a forged driver's license. He was later released on his own recognizance. He could not be reached for comment.

@Lewis_Robert
rlewis@alligator.org

Cantina-style Taco Bell to offer 50-cent tacos, raffle

By Jessica Giles
Alligator Staff Writer

The newly opened Taco Bell, located at 1404 W. University Ave., will host an event from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday.

The restaurant will offer 50-cent tacos and raffle off a 50-inch TV, gift cards and T-shirts, said Kayla Lampp, the Mexican fast-food chain's general manager.

"It's kind of like to tell them, you know, we're here right across from the school, and we're ready for them now," she said.

However, customers still have to wait for booze-filled Baja Blasts, their Mountain Dew-flavored signature drinks. The cantina doesn't have an anticipated date for a liquor license yet, Lampp said.

Gabrielle Grilli, a UF English junior, said she's a loyal customer so she plans on getting 50-cent tacos this weekend.

"I'm, like, kind of obsessed with Taco Bell," she said.

@jessica_giles_
jgiles@alligator.org

Bite Squad adds delivery service from 20 more restaurants

By Sabrina Conza
Alligator Contributing Writer

Bite Squad, the website and mobile app that allows users to order food for delivery, added 20 new restaurant locations in Gainesville.

Company spokesperson Liz Sniegocki said the company now offers delivery from a total of 97 restaurants in Gainesville.

The additions include Chick-fil-A, Relish and Firehouse Subs.

The company delivers up to 7 miles from the restaurant's location, and its most popular restaurant partners in the city are Piesanos and Gators Dockside, she said.

She said the company has been growing since its Gainesville launch in February 2017 and expects to con-

tinue growing this year.

"We want to have food for whatever mood our customers are in that can be delivered to their door," she said.

Shalena Hoang, a 19-year-old biology freshman, said she uses Bite Squad weekly so she's excited that for more restaurant options available.

"I think I will start using it more because I only have more options," she said.

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UF alumnus to pitch low-calorie pasta on "Shark Tank"

By Sabrina Conza

Alligator Contributing Writer

Alfonso Tejada made a pasta that fits every diet's needs, from anyone who's on a keto diet to people who are allergic to gluten.

It's so good, the UF alumnus said, his wife eats it three times a week. So he decided to pitch the idea on one of his favorite TV shows, "Shark Tank."

Eight months later, the UF alumnus and his product, Palmini, will be featured on "Shark Tank" at 10 p.m. Sunday on ABC. He will ask the "sharks," famous investors, to invest \$300,000 for 10 percent of his company. Tejada graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance in 2009 and a master's degree in business administration in 2011.

When he applied to the show through email in June, he didn't expect to hear back. But the next day, he got a call.

"I was extremely excited," he said. "I started jumping around because it's one of those things that you don't think is possible until it happens."

Tejada said he founded his company, O.A. Foods, in 2012. It sells quinoa and chia products online, as well as the main product he marketed on the show, Palmini, which he created last year.

It's a noodle made out of the vegetable

heart of palm, Tejada said. It's a pasta alternative for those looking for a healthy option or people with dietary restrictions preventing them from eating pasta.

He said a 75 gram serving has 15 calories, 3 grams of carbohydrates, no sugar and is gluten-free. Seventy-five grams of Barilla, a popular pasta brand, has about 275 calories and 56 grams of carbs.

Tejada said he knew his pitch had to be creative and unique because only about half of the pitches the sharks hear get aired.

So he had his friend dress up as a can for the pitch to get the investors' attention, particularly Mark Cuban. The multibillionaire has experience in food and is the most recognizable out of the five sharks, he said.

Although Tejada said he couldn't reveal if he got a deal with a shark, he wants to encourage entrepreneurs to apply for the show.

"It was an awesome experience, and I had a lot of fun while doing it," he said.

Jack Renaud, a 22-year-old UF political science senior, said he watches "Shark Tank" a few times a month and thinks it's good publicity for UF to have an alumnus on the show.

He said he thinks Tejada's product is a good idea and plans to research it after the show airs.

"It's good to be conscious of what you're eating," he said.

UF students raising money to march in D.C. for gun reform

THE GROUP HAS RAISED MORE THAN \$4,500 IN THREE DAYS.

By Amanda Rosa

Alligator Staff Writer

As Brandon Taylor scrolled down the list of those killed in the Parkland shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, he didn't expect to see the name of a 15-year-old student he used to tutor.

Taylor, 20, a UF computer science engineering sophomore, tutored then 10-year-old Peter Wang at the Kumon Math and Reading Center in Coral Springs, Florida.

"He was just one of the happiest kids ever," Taylor said. "He was there learning stuff beyond his years. He couldn't be happier about it."

Peter, 15, died as he held the door open for his fellow students to escape, according to the New York Times. The violence was close to home for Taylor. He is one of 20 UF students organizing a bus trip for students to attend the March For Our Lives in Washington D.C., a national march to pressure government officials to enact gun reform and to support victims, on March 24.

"In the past, everybody knew about it, but nothing happened," he said. "Now everybody knows about it, and everybody will have to listen."

Taylor is raising money for the buses needed to make the trip on GoFundMe. His goal

is \$15,000, and he already raised more than \$4,500 in three days.

Any extra money will be donated to the Broward Education Foundation's GoFundMe campaign to raise money for victims and their families, Taylor said.

Jaimie Ivers, 20, a UF public relations sophomore, posted on Facebook asking students if they were interested in a bus trip from UF to D.C. The group is also looking into organizing a march in Gainesville on March 24, she said.

The post received more than 300 likes and 150 comments from students interested in both hosting a local march and traveling to D.C.

"I wanted to bring UF to help support Parkland and help end gun violence in America," she said. "Parkland really should be the last mass shooting."

The tragedy also mobilized her roommate Julia Tiplea, 19, a UF marine science sophomore.

She said the outpour of national support encourages her to make it to the march and seek justice for gun violence victims.

"It makes me feel good to know that people around the country, like strangers I don't even know, are donating to our cause just to get UF students to march for our rights," Tiplea said.

The Stoneman Douglas students who organized the #NeverAgain movement against gun violence give her hope.

"Young people are powerful, and we shouldn't be discredited just because we're young," she said.

Worship guide

Pentecostal

Deeper Life Bible Church Gainesville

We invite you to our weekly meeting.

Bible Study: Tuesday 6:30 pm

Location:

2911 SW 13th St., 46
Gainesville, FL 32608

Call Emmanuel at
850-345-2844

Methodist

Trinity United Methodist Church

Wed: Contemporary service
@6:35p

in Trinity Chapel, followed by
Coffee Talk for young adults

@ Hunters Crossing

Starbucks 8-9p

Sunday services: 8:15,
9:40, 11a

352-376-6615 | TrinityGNV.org

Catholic

St. Augustine Church & Catholic Student Center

Mass: Sat. 5:30 p.m.,
Sun. 9 a.m., 11:30,

1:30 (español), 5:30, 7:30

M-F 12 & 5:30 p.m.

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www.catholicgators.org

Episcopal

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Sunday Worship:
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followed by a free home
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7:30 p.m. Spring/Fall,
8:30 p.m. Summer

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UF HILLEL

Join the UF Hillel family
for Shabbat Friday nights
for student-lead services

at 6:30pm

followed by a free meal
at 7:30pm

All are welcome!

Students eat for free.

Lutheran

First Lutheran Church

1801 NW 5th Ave.
Sun: Bible Study

@ 9 am, Church @ 10am
Free lunch for students
after church!

Student Bible Study
@ 7:30 pm on Tue.

Join LCMS-U Events!

Quaker

Gainesville

Quaker Meeting

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Spiritual Community?

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dedicated to peace, integrity,
equality, social justice,
and care of the earth.

Join with friends
in the mystic tradition of
waiting upon the Divine.

11 a.m. Sundays

Followed by food and fellowship
www.gainesvillequakers.org

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ministry college group meets
at University City Church
on Sundays at 9 a.m. and
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

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God's word, plus service
projects, large group events,
free meals and much more...

(directions and events
calendar at www.

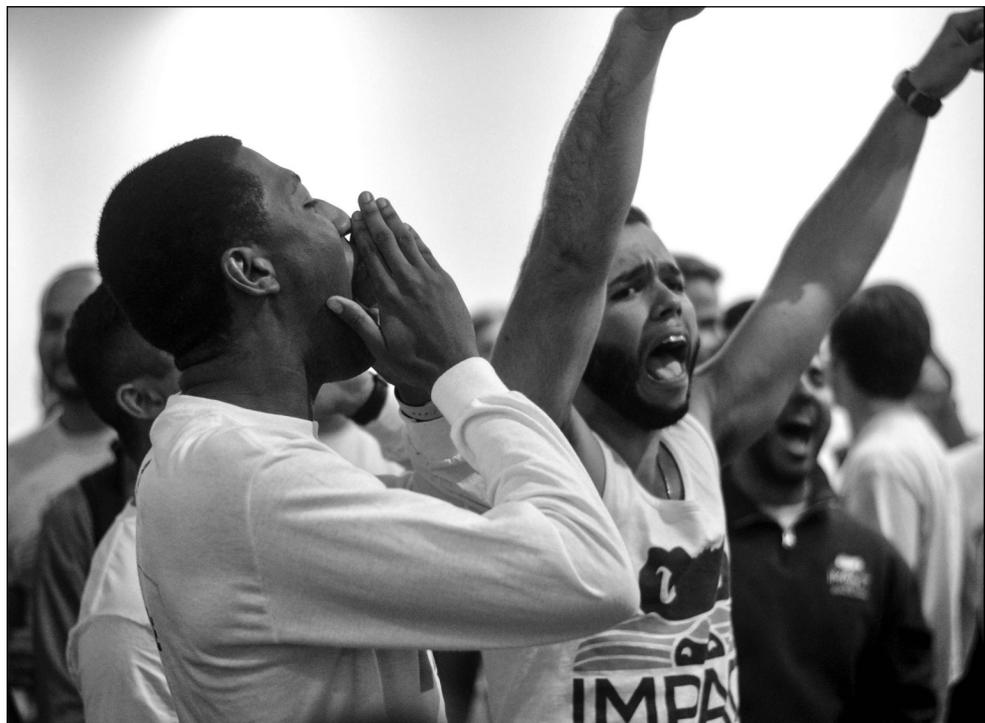
gatorsforchrist.org)

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Impact Party sweeps SG election third year in a row



Taylor Marks / Alligator Staff

Student Body President-elect, Ian Green, 22, and Student Body Vice President-elect, David Enriquez, 20, cheer as Impact Party wins the executive ticket at the Reitz Union.



Will Clewis / Alligator Staff

Inspire Party members stand together while the Student Government Spring election results are announced at the Reitz Union on Wednesday night.

A total of 10,381 students voted — 3,512 more than Spring 2017

**By Christina Morales,
David Hoffman and
Amanda Rosa**
Alligator Staff Writers

Minutes after Ian Green won the Student Government presidential election for Impact Party, his friends congratulated and hugged him, and his mom wiped the tears that streamed down his face with a tissue.

“I just want to thank God first and my parents for supporting me,” Green said. “I’ve worked so hard for this, and I can’t wait to get to work.”

Green, along with his running mate, David Enriquez, won the Spring SG election. They will become the next Student Body president and vice president, respectively, after getting a total of 5,971 votes, or 59.25 percent, of the 10,381 ballots cast over the course of two days. Impact’s treasurer candidate, Stefan Sanguyo, won with 5,694 votes, or 57.8 percent of the total.

Erica Baker, supervisor of election, wrote in an email 6,484 votes cast Tuesday, 3,897 votes cast Wednesday and 25 students voted using absentee ballots. This is 3,512 more votes than Spring 2017, when only 6,869 students voted, according to Alligator archives. Of the 50 Senate seats for academic colleges up for vote, Impact won 36, Inspire Party won 14 and Challenge Party won none.

This is the third consecutive year Impact won the executive ticket and the fifth time a black student was elected as Student Body president. Inspire’s president and vice president candidates, Revel Lubin and Bijal Desai, received 2,715 votes, or 26.94 percent of the

vote. Challenge’s candidates Janae Moodie and Shayli Patel received 1,312 votes, or 13.02 percent of the vote.

Alyssa Bethencourt, Inspire’s treasurer candidate, got 3,021 votes, or 30.67 percent of the total. Chase Werther of Challenge received 1,065 votes, or 10.81 percent of the total.

More than 200 students crowded into the Reitz Union Atrium to support candidates. In a room filled with nervous jitters, members from each party put their tension aside and wished each other luck.

Before the results were announced, they chanted.

“I-M-P-A-C-T. Impact is for you and me.”

“Inspire. It’s time. Together, we shine.”

“Hey hey, ho ho. Challenge the status quo.”

Sanguyo embraced his running mates as the room echoed with shouts after Baker announced Impact took the treasurer seat.

“I’m excited to work for the Student Body,” he said. “I really hope I don’t let the students down.”

The room silenced before Baker called out the winners of the presidential and vice presidential ticket — Ian Green and David Enriquez.

Green’s mom, Val Green, his dad, Vince Green, his younger sister, Olivia Green, his godmother, Pam Prier from Jacksonville and his girlfriend, Lauren Milgrim, stood by his side the entire night decked out in Impact T-shirts reading, “The Future is Green.”

It was a long six-hour drive from Marietta, Georgia for the Green family, but Val Green said they couldn’t miss the election.

“I’m very excited to come and

support Ian and be a part of a very historic election,” Val said.

When Baker announced Enriquez won, his eyes got watery and he couldn’t stop jumping up and down.

“I want to thank the community behind me, my Latino community,” he said.

• • •

Revel Lubin locked arms with a row of Inspire members and looked up as the election results were announced. The Inspire crowd stood silent as Impact was called again and again to claim Senate seats.

Lubin remained with his arms locked, staring up and nodding. He leaned over to hug Alyssa Bethencourt after she lost the treasurer seat to Impact’s Stefan Sanguyo. Bethencourt, a UF Innovation Academy telecommunication junior, smiled as other party members showered her in hugs.

In that moment, Bethencourt said she felt relief and pride, not disappointment.

“More than anything, I’m proud of the party,” the 20-year-old said. “I’m just grateful for the opportunity.”

After losing by one vote last semester in the District C election, Bianka Ramirez, a philosophy and economics junior and Inspire candidate, returned to the ballot as a Liberal Arts and Sciences candidate. She lost again by fewer than 80 votes.

She held hands with fellow Inspire running mates Jessica Zheng and Luke Morris when it was announced Impact won the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences Senate seats.

“This is more fuel for me,” the 20-year-old said. “I’m never going to stop.”

Bijal Desai said he’s proud of Inspire’s campaign and platform, which included advocating for a sexual assault reporting program.

“We stood for what we stood for. We fought for what we fought for,” he said. “We brought what we felt the biggest issues on campus are to the forefront.”

Inspire gathered at the patio area by the Reitz pond to give each other hugs and words of encouragement. Lubin spoke to his fellow party members and told them to look up at the stars in the sky.

“It always takes a certain amount of darkness to see the star,” he said, quoting a Martin Luther King Jr. sermon.

Lubin said his party members should be proud of their hard work and keep faith in their vision for UF. Inspire senators will continue to share their ideas as the minority party in SG, he said. Lubin said he would run for Student Body president again, if that’s what God has planned for him.

“I don’t take a loss as a loss. It’s a lesson learned,” he said. “There’s beauty in it.”

With three parties on the ballot, there was a question of how that would impact the votes. Inspire President Ben Lima said it is impossible to tell if Challenge split the vote.

“This is a democracy,” he said. “Sometimes there’s going to be multiple parties, and that’s the reality of party politics. That’s the reality of what the semester was.”

Lima said Inspire does not intend to merge parties with Challenge but is open to accepting Challenge members with open arms.

“Inspire is here to stay,” he said.

• • •

About an hour after the results

were announced and Challenge didn’t win a single seat, Janae Moodie said she still felt victory in her heart.

Moodie’s smile didn’t fade as she read the results with her mother, Marcia, 60, who took a five-hour RedCoach bus ride from West Palm Beach to Gainesville on Wednesday to support her daughter.

“I feel like I got my freedom on January 9th when I resigned,” she said. “In the end, we still stood up for what was right and what was different — this doesn’t feel like a loss.”

Marcia, who wore three Challenge stickers on her navy blue and white-striped dress, said she was proud of her 21-year-old daughter.

“I’ll always be proud of her,” she said.

Holding back tears, Shayli Patel said she still had hope for an independent movement.

Patel, Challenge’s candidate for vice president, said she still plans to fight for issues like renaming the O’Connell Center and access to free menstrual products.

“We can still fight for issues as students when we stand together united,” the 21-year-old economics junior said. “We started this to bring about change, and that feeling won’t go away any time soon.”

Challenge spokesperson Wayne Selogy said Wednesday night was not the end of the party by any means.

Selogy said he’s aware people might accuse Challenge of stealing votes away from Inspire in light of Impact’s sweeping victories.

“In a true democracy, everyone has the right to give it their fair shot, and that’s exactly what we did,” he said.

Editorial

After you dodge the gaggle of fraternity men, begging you to give them the “I voted” sticker you’ll get after casting your ballot, you find your place in line and dig through your backpack until you find your rarely used Gator 1 Card. You dust it off and mindlessly scroll through social media on your phone until you reach the front of the line.

The friendly older woman at the desk hands you a red card with detailed instructions on how to cast your ballot. After confirming your year and major on about six different screens, you finally reach the ballot.

Oddly enough, however, the ballot doesn’t say what you expect. Instead, it reads ...

Darts & Laurels

Hearts were shattered this Tuesday when members of the Florida House of Representatives refused to even consider a bill that would have banned assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

House Democrats attempted to debate the bill on the floor six days after the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The bill would have banned the sale and possession of semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines, like the kind used by confessed killer Nikolas Cruz.

Unfortunately, House Republicans decisively blocked the move with a 71 to 36 vote, deciding they wouldn’t even discuss the bill. How many more lives need to be lost before we realize there is a simple solution? How many lives will it take for Republicans to finally value safety over National Rifle Association funding? To the **Florida House Republicans**, we award our first **dart**.

This callous decision, however, only served as fuel for those advocating for stricter gun reform. On Wednesday, Tallahassee streets were flooded with nearly 100 Stoneman Douglas students and thousands of other supporters as they rallied for gun control outside the capitol building.

Students also managed to schedule audiences with Gov. Rick Scott, State Attorney General Pam Bondi and leaders of the state House and Senate. The teenagers recounted their tragedy and presented their pleas. The fearless efforts Stoneman Douglas students and other Americans have exhibited since the shooting are nothing short of inspiring. Millions have been using the calamity as a reason to change our country for the better. To **these students and the others** who have been advocating for stricter gun laws, we award our first **laurel**.

While we didn’t see movement in the Florida House for a ban on assault rifles, we did get a glimmer of hope from President Donald Trump. On Tuesday, Trump said he directed Attorney General Jeff Sessions to propose changes that would ban bump fire stocks, which make it easier for shooters to fire rounds faster. We admit, this isn’t the change we are waiting for, and it definitely isn’t enough. But it is something, dear readers. And for that, we are grateful. For probably the first time in Alligator history, we award our second **laurel** to **Trump**.

This Monday, we announced our endorsements for Challenge Party’s executive ticket and Inspire Party’s Senate seats in this Spring’s Student Government Elections. We were disappointed, but not surprised, when we saw Impact Party sweep the election for the third year in a row. We had hoped more students would vote, and we’d see an end to system parties like Impact, which refuse to focus on the real needs of students.

Only 10,381 ballots were cast this Spring. At a school with around 50,000 students, that number is embarrassing. To **the students who chose not to vote**, we award our second and last **dart** of the week. When you refuse to let your voice be heard, you are agreeing to succumb to the status quo and supporting the convoluted and corrupt system that has been in place for far too long within SG.

Melissa Gomez
EDITOR

Abby Miller
OPINIONS
EDITOR

Caitlin Ostroff
MANAGING
EDITOR,
ONLINE

Jimena Tavel
MANAGING
EDITOR, PRINT

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Column

Politically fueled late-night TV will not last forever

Late-night television is strange. Thirty years ago, it satiated the same need that late-night web surfing does today: mindless entertainment to help you unwind at the end of the day. Despite the exponential growth of other nightly entertainment sources, late-night shows are still chugging along.

Each show starts the same way. The funnyman walks out to an applauding crowd, while his band plays some cute little tune. Then he tells a handful of jokes written by a room full of writers earlier in the day. The shows are usually taped sometime in the afternoon and try to incorporate some news or current events in the opening monologue.

During the election, the joke material flowed like milk and honey. If the debates weren’t enough, President Donald Trump’s Twitter feed proved to be the fountain of youth for joke writers, providing endless streams of material to poke and prod.

Since Trump took office, the political jokes have not subsided at all, and don’t show any signs of stopping. Late night hosts that dish the most out at Trump — most notably Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel — have significantly improved their ratings. Somewhere in the middle, you have the more neutral late-night hosts, venturing into the political realm here and there, but with far less veracity than Colbert or Kimmel.

Then, on the non-political side, you have Jimmy Fallon, standing alone in his vacuum devoid of Trump bashing. In an interview with the “Today” show, Fallon said that bashing Trump is “just not what I do,” and that he “doesn’t really even care that much about politics.”

You have to admire Fallon for having such self-awareness and sticking to his guns, despite plummeting ratings.



Andrew Hall
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It appears “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” has taken the lead among late-night shows, riding his nightly politically fueled monologues. In the last year, Fallon’s lead over Colbert among younger viewers dropped from 364,000 to only 57,000.

Despite this loss of valuable ground, Fallon has steadfastly remained apolitical. Instead, he focuses almost entirely on pop culture, something that I imagine is quite the challenge these days.

I think Fallon is making the right move by abstaining from the bash-Trump train. He might take some losses right now, but in the long-run, this will prove to be the wiser move. When looking back at these turbulent years, Fallon will, at the minimum, be able to take pride in being solely a source of positivity in a world of suffocating despair. In the coming months and years, the allure of criticizing Trump will eventually subside, and the casual late-night viewer will grow tired of the incessant negativity.

Late-night television became what it is today because it served as a lighthearted source of laughter and fun, an escape from the doldrums of the workweek. Even if society and the world at large are crumbling down, nobody wants to be reminded of it by a comedian on TV forever. Right now, regardless of if you find him and his artificial laugh funny or not, Jimmy Fallon is the only one genuinely playing the role of late-night host correctly.

Abstaining from this trend for cash and instead focusing purely on positive humor is a much more sustainable, and enjoyable, strategy for the long term.

Andrew Hall is a UF management senior. His column focuses on entertainment.

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

Column

UF must start paying its tour guides, stop marketing unpaid labor as Gator pride

This time four years ago, I was taking last-minute tours of campuses across the country, and there was something that made UF's tours different. Was it the orange and blue? Was it that classic, mid-tour Gainesville rain shower? Close, but no — I noticed UF doesn't pay their tour guides.

UF is not a perfect institution, and it doesn't make you a hater to think or say that. As my time here is coming to a close, I'm reflecting on the work I've done at UF, both inside and outside of class.

I've never been a Florida Cicerone. I never applied and I never even considered applying. I love UF, but being a Cicerone is unpaid work. I chose instead to apply to be a 2016 Preview staffer. This choice was

guided, in part, by financial incentive. As much as the campus loves the Preview program, not a lot of students know Preview staffers are paid. This matters.

To be honest, I wouldn't have applied to Preview if it didn't pay. You have to take — and pay for — a 3-credit, 4000-level class in the Spring, and then spend three months of your summer working your swampy butt off. To me, that sounds like we deserve compensation. I've had a job since I was 14 years old, and paying Preview staffers made it feasible for me to apply.

Staffing as work creates an opportunity for low-income students to get involved —



Andrew Cushen
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students who wouldn't be able to commit their summers for free.

Involvement culture at UF disturbs me in a number of ways. One being the way it rhetorically encodes unpaid labor for the university as "Gator pride." The attitude strikes me as elitist — you can love something and still need money to live. Unpaid labor takes privilege, and we need to see students without privilege given the opportunity to participate and succeed in every dimension of campus life. If major involvement opportunities at UF, like the Florida Cicerones, are serious about having a diverse group of students, they're doing themselves a dis-

service by closing the door to students who love UF but have to work to be here.

Across the nation, tour guides at other institutions are paid. At our public-education rivals like the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Michigan and yes, even Florida State University, pay their tour guides. This is a small bar to clear. There doesn't need to be a big dispute. If the Alumni Association is serious about representing UF, they need to start paying the students who do the footwork for them. We owe it to incoming Gators to make this change before they ever knew there was such a gap.

Andrew Cushen is a UF Spanish senior.

Column

'Black Panther' shows movies starring minorities can sell to a wide audience

\$ 202 million. That's how much money "Black Panther" made in its opening weekend. The next highest grossing film for the weekend of Feb. 16 to Feb. 18 only made \$17 million. "Black Panther" is the 15th highest-grossing worldwide box office of all time and is rated 97 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes, an American review website for television and film. I haven't seen the movie yet myself, but the outstanding opening weekend bode well for films with similarly diverse casts about to hit theaters like "A Wrinkle in Time" and "Crazy Rich Asians."

Seeing people who look like them in film can be immensely beneficial to young kids of color. Unfortunately, this alone hasn't been a convincing enough argument for Hollywood to create more diverse films.

Movies with a predominately black, Hispanic or Asian American cast were thought to only appeal to those communities, and any film or TV series starring minorities often faces immense pressure to perform well. If they don't, the instance could be used to prove this

outdated and discriminatory idea that media representing minorities won't make money. Basically, films with a diverse cast can't fail because they run the risk of becoming the reason that others don't even get a chance.

"Black Panther" shows black movies can sell to a wide audience, even internationally. This achievement counters the long-held Hollywood theory that certain films won't sell, which executives have used as an excuse to create films with only white leads.

They've similarly used the idea that actors of color aren't well-known and therefore won't bring in as much revenue as an excuse to whitewash roles. Even when a film explicitly calls for a person of color, roles are often still given away to white actors. As a result, actors of color must clamor for the few roles that are available.

Even when a project breaks out to the mainstream, it has to be outstanding in order to show it's really worth the effort for Holly-



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wood decision-makers to go out of their way to cast actors who aren't white. Margaret Cho's "All-American Girl" is an example of a TV show that fell short of its expectations. It premiered in 1994, and it was groundbreaking at the time due to its portrayal of an Asian American family at a time when Asians were not represented on TV.

TV critic Jeff Yang wrote a bad review of the show that was later used to show that Asian Americans didn't support "All-American Girl," and that it should be canceled, according to an article written by Yang 20 years later for Quartz. After "All-American Girl" was canceled in 1995, the next sitcom with an Asian American cast came 20 years later — it was "Fresh Off the Boat."

A lackluster film or TV show can hinder opportunities for a marginalized group for decades. The cast feels the pressure to pave the way for their community. When you see yourself represented, you want so desperately to like it, you're willing to give it multiple chances

to be good. Anything other than loyally watching the episodes feels traitorous. This is how I felt watching "Dr. Ken," another Asian American family sitcom that premiered after "Fresh Off the Boat" and was later canceled.

"Black Panther" shows a black team behind and in front of the camera can be a winning combination, at home and abroad. This is ultimately a step toward a more inclusive media. Some have criticized "Black Panther" itself as being racist and have even created campaigns committed to taking down the "Black Panther" Rotten Tomatoes rating. This raises the question — when was the last time you questioned seeing a film with an all-white cast? It's normal, isn't it? Even though operating in an all-white world is completely unrealistic, let's think critically about our media and support increased opportunities for actors of color. I hope you'll all join me in supporting "Black Panther" this weekend.

Nicole Dan is a UF political science and journalism senior. Her column focuses on race and culture.

SPORTS ISSUES

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Rupert Heard hopes he can leave a positive legacy at the camp



Elliott Nasby / Alligator

Rupert Heard, 55, smiles in front of his new tent that was donated earlier this month by UF Christian Campus House. At the homeless camp, Heard helps the others get by.



Lindsay Crown / Alligator Staff

Dignity Village resident Rupert Heard, 55, uses a cooler to keep perishable items from going bad, and plastic bins to store unrefrigerated items.

FEATURE, from pg. 1

at the camp about eight months ago and after three months living there, Heard was voted the new leader of his group of three.

Heard fetches firewood when it gets cold to keep his friends warm. In the summer, he waits in line for ice. Each day, he makes the short journey for food, water and gas for the camp grill from Grace Marketplace, a homeless shelter.

He manages finances, fixes plates of corn beef hash and turns on “Mike & Mike in the Morning” for others to get their daily fix of UF sports.

“I was actually terrified when I first came out here,” he said. “Now that I kind of settled into my role, I feel pretty good.”

Residents of the campgrounds, which are set up outside of the Grace Marketplace, often band together and form their own self-governed groups, clustered in a circle around the marketplace.

Within his camp, Heard is the first to greet visitors, walking up with a bit of swagger and a toothy smile. He fills silence with stories about the day or his laughter. Even residents outside of Heard’s small camp visit. One friend, Steve, jokes he comes by every day because Heard has a better living room, and a good ceiling fan.

“I love him because he takes care of my friend,” said Steve, who declined to give his last name.

Steve’s friend Mike Burnette, a 68-year-old Vietnam veteran who says he plans to stay at Dignity until he dies, is one of the two other members of Heard’s camp. Wheelchair-bound and suffering from gout in both feet, Burnette relies on Heard to help him survive.

Burnette trusts Heard with the camp’s money supply, his monthly veteran’s benefits check of \$1,074.

“He helps me every day, and I appreciate it, really do,” he said.

Heard moved into Dignity around the time the camp’s previous leader, Pete, was about to be “voted off the island,” Steve said. Pete would waste all of Burnette’s money by the tenth of every month, blowing it on liquor instead of groceries.

As Pete ignored his responsibilities, Heard started taking care of the camp’s chores. Heard said he was upset seeing how Burnette was being abused.

Even the people who are often forgotten about need someone in their corner, Heard said. It was important for Heard to help Burnette when he needed it.

“They’re out here and nobody cares,” Heard said.

Bob Gailey, the director of Christian Campus House, visits Heard and others every Wednesday evening, passing out bananas and peanut butter sandwiches with volunteers.

Gailey has been coming out since Dignity opened in 2014, and said the visits almost always run smoothly. Alachua County and Putnam County together had an estimated 844 homeless people in 2016, according to a report from the National Homeless Information Project.

But about two weeks ago, Gailey parked his van and told his group to stay put.

People were shouting and pointing fingers, accusing each other of stealing from another’s pile of firewood.

At Dignity Village, small disputes can turn ugly — knives, baseball bats, sticks, or fists are pulled over a few owed dollars, Steve said.

Just last month, police responded to 47 calls at the camp, Gainesville Police Department spokesperson Ben Tobias wrote in an email.

That night, however, police weren’t called. Instead, Heard intervened.

“He comes in as kind of the peacemaker,” Gailey, 58, said. “And that’s a difficult place to do that, because you’ve got alcohol involved, you’ve got who knows what involved.”

Heard’s life was upended about a year ago when he lost his job at Earth Fare grocery store, replaced by a younger employee in the meat section, he said. He couldn’t afford his monthly rent and was evicted.

When that happened, it was as if all his past troubles, including his history of substance abuse, became overwhelming. Heard said he started to lose hope.

Now, he said he hopes his legacy can be the positive things he’s doing for his camp and neighbors.

He gives socks to Brian next door without being asked. He keeps an eye on Kenny, who has epilepsy. When the camp gets items donated — which isn’t nearly enough, Heard said — he makes sure everyone gets their pick.

“I’m not out of the game yet,” he said. “This isn’t the place where I plan to stop. I’m going to continue to be who I am, the fabric of my personality, and the way that I was raised up.”

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FEARLESS: Students and parents demand gun reform

By Jimena Tavel
Alligator Staff Writer

About a month ago, Ariana Ortega wanted to study at UF after she graduated from high school because of its high-quality education.

When she opened the acceptance letter Feb. 9, she screamed, jumped up and down and hugged her mom.

But everything changed Feb. 14, when 17 people were shot and killed in her high school, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, in Parkland, Florida. One of her best friends, 16-year-old Carmen Schentrup, died in the carnage. Carmen had planned to attend UF in Fall, Ariana said.

In the days since Carmen's death, Ariana has found a new reason to become a Gator: to honor Carmen, who will never fulfill her own dreams of walking across Turlington Plaza or cheering for the Orange and Blue from the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium stands.

"It feels right," said the 17-year-old, who plans to major in industrial engineering. "I know Carmen wanted to go there really bad, so being there — it just feels right."

Ariana was one of the hundreds of students who marched to advocate for stricter gun laws in Tallahassee on Wednesday. About 5,000 people attended the march, according to one of the about 20 police officers who stood bordering the crowd of protesters.

Before Carmen became a victim — before her name became a symbol for gun control activism in Florida — she was Ariana's first friend in seventh grade when Ariana moved to Parkland. Carmen was also new in town.

"We bonded instantly," Ariana said. "From there, we helped each other adjust."

On Wednesday, joined by other students from her high school, Ariana met with state legislators before marching with hundreds of people who flooded the streets.

Zach Randolph, a 15-year-old Stoneman Douglas sophomore, rode a bus from South Florida to the state's Capitol to protest.

Prepped in white tennis shoes that had the names of all of the 17 victims written on them and an "NC" scribbled on the soles to represent Nikolas Cruz, Zach said he was there for Jaime Guttenberg, a 14-year-old who died at the shooting. Jaime was Jesse's sister, and



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

Thousands cheer outside the Florida State Capitol Wednesday afternoon, as one of the speakers at the rally claimed that the country needs "an assault weapon ban now."

Jesse is Zach's best friend.

Zach said he wrote "NC" under his shoes to step on him every time he walks.

His right hand was balled up in a fist glued to his side as he gripped a sign in his other hand that read, "We are the spark that will light the fire that will burn the NRA down."

After hiding for more than two hours in a peer counseling room at Stoneman Douglas the day of the shooting, Zach said he called Jesse to check in on him. Jesse said he hadn't heard from Jaime yet. Zach assured his friend that his sister must be safe with other teachers.

"Maybe they didn't let her go on her phone," he told Jesse. "It's going to take a while to spot her out of 3,000 students."

Later that night, however, Zach's mom got a phone call.

It was Jesse's mom, Zach said. Jaime died. When he heard the words, a blinding rage took over him. He turned and punched a wall.

"I'm just mad at the whole situation," he

said. "It's unreal."

It wasn't sadness he felt after Jaime's death, he said, but anger. Anger at the people who let it happen. The march in Tallahassee was his way of demanding change.

And the shooter, Nikolas Cruz? He's angry at him, too.

"I hope he rots in a cell," Zach said. "The death penalty is too easy for him."

Ginger Schantz of Gainesville, is a mother of two school-aged children. She drove to rally for gun control and support students like Zach who are going through "the unimaginable."

"There are no words," the 53-year-old said. "I don't have a vocabulary to describe the depth of sadness and fear — the depth of emotion that you could experience as a mother thinking of something like that happening to your children."

After Schantz found out about the march on Facebook, she immediately started recruit-

ing politically active friends, she said.

After the stay-at-home mom prepared breakfast and packed lunch for her kids Wednesday morning, she reminded them she would be driving up to protest.

She gave them the contact information of their "back-up mom," who would be their emergency contact during school.

Schantz's husband also happened to be out of town for the day.

She convinced three fellow mothers to join her, and all four of them did what moms do on road trips — talk about their children. They put themselves in the Parkland mothers' positions and all agreed it would be horrific. They were eager to support the victims, she said.

As she and the other moms marched to the state capitol, a sea of teenagers surrounded them, pumping their fists toward the sky.

"They're fearless," she said of the students. "They're going to take this problem head on."

Once she becomes a freshman at UF, Ariana won't have to explain how she had been laughing with friends when the school's fire alarm went off for the second time Feb. 14.

She won't have to recall how she heard sirens and couldn't figure out why her school administrators were rushing her off campus.

When she meets Stoneman Douglas alumni at UF, she won't need to reveal how she cried and clung onto a friend when she discovered someone they knew had been injured during the shooting.

When she recounts that experience now — her experience during the high school shooting on Valentine's Day her senior year — her voice is steady. She enunciates words like "change" and "guns." The words have more meaning to her now.

After Feb. 14, she is no longer just a high school student. She's become an activist for gun control.

She said she's thought a lot about how — and if — she and her schoolmates will ever get over the experience.

"I don't think we'll ever be able to be the same," she said. But in a way, she doesn't want to be. Change needs to happen, she said.

"It may not come all at once. Change comes step by step."

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Swamp Head to celebrate anniversary with special beers

By Marina Burke
Alligator Contributing Writer

Ten years after opening as the first craft brewery in Gainesville, Swamp Head Brewing Company is inviting six other breweries to celebrate its growth.

The company is collaborating with six local breweries to create six special edition beers, one for each company, to debut April 7 at Swamp Head's 10th anniversary party, "10 Years of Gainesville Beers."

The beers will range from \$5 to \$7 and be

sold in 12 and 16 oz. servings, said Swamp Head's marketing coordinator Brandon Nappy.

Though he could not release specific details on the beers, Nappy said each beer will combine the personalities of Swamp Head and of each of the six partner companies.

The event will not only celebrate Swamp Head's success, but also the evolution of the craft beer scene in Gainesville, Nappy said.

"We're a company focused on community," Nappy said. "We've gone from being the only brewery in town to having all these other

different breweries and creating a close-knit community."

Gainesville resident Nick DeConna, 35, said he has been a regular at Swamp Head since it opened its doors in 2009, and he plans to attend the anniversary event. His favorite Swamp Head beer is the Stump Knocker pale ale, which he said is smooth with a great hoppy flavor.

"I love the fact that it's local, good beer and run by great people," DeConna said. "I'm excited about the future of Swamphead and love watching them grow and expand."

Swamp Head Brewing Company is collaborating with:

- Alligator Brewing Company*
- First Magnitude Brewing*
- Cypress & Grove Brewing Company*
- Infinite Ale Works*
- Blackadder Brewing Company*
- Hoggetowne Ale*

UF researchers assist in study to prevent, slow down Type I diabetes

By Rachel Porter
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF and international researchers discovered a new use for a high blood pressure drug — to prevent or slow down Type I diabetes.

David Ostrov, a UF pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine associate professor, said researchers used UF's supercomputer, the HiPerGator, as part of the study published Feb. 13. They discovered a commonly used high blood pressure drug called Aldomet, also known by the generic name methyldopa, can help those with Type I diabetes.

Ostrov said nearly 60 percent of people who contract Type I diabetes have a gene known as HLA-DQ8. The gene produces a molecule that essentially causes the immune system to attack itself.

The researchers found that Aldomet binds to the HLA molecule to block it from attacking the immune system, Ostrov said. The drug is generally considered safe because it has been used on pregnant women and those with high blood pressure for about 50 years.

To find a way to slow Type I diabetes, researchers used the supercomputer to test a variety of drugs and similar compounds in order to find the right one, Ostrov said. The experiment was completed over the course of 10 years using the supercomputer

in combination with lab testing live animals.

UF's supercomputer is the third-fastest U.S. university supercomputer, according to Alligator archives.

"This has been a long career goal," Ostrov said. "I feel like our dream is partially realized."

The drug is now being tested in human clinical trials in order to be FDA approved, Ostrov said.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation funded about \$120,000 for the research, which was published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Ostrov said the next step is using similar research methods to find treatments for other autoimmune diseases that have HLA molecules associated with them, such as celiac disease and multiple sclerosis.

"This paves the way to using the exact same strategy for a variety of autoimmune diseases and cancer," Ostrov said.

Dr. Aaron Michels, director of Clinical Immunology at the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes, said he was another researcher on the study. They tested the top 150 to 160 compounds the HiPerGator suggested would bind to the molecule in the lab and eventually moved to live animals.

"The computer really, really helped us take an insurmountable amount of information and scale it down to something that we could test on the lab bench," Michels said.

Downtown thrift store to close after 80 years

IT WILL HAVE ONE FINAL SALE THIS SPRING.

By Eman Elshahawy
Alligator Contributing Writer

A Gainesville thrift store that opened in 1935 will sell its clothes and accessories for the last time this semester.

The Junior League of Gainesville Thrift Shop closed its doors Jan. 3 so the League's board members could evaluate how well the store was doing, said Margot DeConna, president of the Gainesville organization. But by the end of the month, the members decided the shop, located at 430 N. Main St., will not reopen.

The Junior League of Gainesville is a local chapter of the national nonprofit organization of women committed to promoting voluntary work, developing the potential of women and improving communities, DeConna said.

The shop will have a final sidewalk sale sometime this spring, but the ex-

act date and discounts are still being decided.

The store's sales have been declining in the past two to three years, DeConna said. Operation costs and competition with other thrift shops in town also contributed to its closure.

"This is a really, really hard decision and one that we're very sad about," DeConna said. "We also look back with pride on all that we've been able to accomplish."

Within three years, DeConna said 15 Junior League Thrift Shops have closed nationwide. In total, the organization has 300 shops in the U.S. and four international locations.

Christine Barnes, a 20-year-old UF horticultural science junior, said she had been going to the thrift store since she was a freshman and plans on taking advantage of the final sale.

"I loved being able to find affordable, cute clothes and know the proceeds were going toward a good cause," Barnes said.

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A ₁	E ₁	N ₁	H ₄	R ₁	D ₂	M ₃		RACK 1
A ₁	I ₁	O ₁	Y ₄	L ₁	N ₁	V ₄		RACK 2
I ₁	Y ₄	T ₁	C ₃	R ₁	P ₃	C ₃		Triple Word Score RACK 3
A ₁	E ₁	S ₁	D ₂	R ₁	N ₁	C ₃		3rd Letter Double RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155 **FOUR RACK TOTAL**
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DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		6	3	4		5		
9						1		7 6
3	8		7					9
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		9				2	8	
	2			6				1
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	3	7				5	4	
		4	8			3		
								7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
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TENNESSEE 70, FLORIDA 42

'A tale of two halves': UF crashes and burns in final home game



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

Forward Paulina Hersler was the only Florida player to score in the third quarter of Thursday night's game against Tennessee, making a jumper with 2:17 left in the frame.

By Justin Ahlum
Sports Writer

The number two appeared in the box score numerous times after Thursday night's Florida women's basketball game.

The Gators' made three-pointers? Two. The Gators' amount of steals? Two. UF's third-quarter point total? Two.

It was a night of statistical lows for the Gators as they fell to No. 15 Tennessee 70-42 at the O'Connell Center.

The two-point third quarter was the biggest blemish during a night where Florida's offense struggled to find momentum. UF shot 1-of-12 from the field in the frame and didn't make any of its nine shots from behind the arc. Paulina Hersler was the only Gator to score in the period, draining a jumper at the 2:17 mark.

"We were depleted," Newbauer said. "But hats off to (Tennessee) for the adjustments they made. We knew they were gonna try to take away the three-point line."

All game long, UF couldn't get past UT's press defense. The Volunteers applied full-court pressure and denied Florida at the three-point line from start to finish.

Florida (11-17, 3-12 SEC) shot 2-of-18 from behind the arc, its worst perfor-

mance from downtown all season.

The relentless pressure also forced the Gators into 25 turnovers, their second-highest total all season (Dec. 31 at Auburn: 28 turnovers).

"They got their hands in the passing lanes," guard Funda Nakkasoglu said. "It kind of got in our heads and that played a big part in why we had so many turnovers."

Newbauer said the game was a "tale of two halves," as UF played shot-for-shot with the Volunteers (22-6, 10-5 SEC) in the opening 20 minutes, trailing by only four points at the break.

Hersler was the only Gator to score in double figures on Thursday night. The forward had 12 points on 6-of-12 shooting with five rebounds inside.

Nakkasoglu, who was averaging over 20 points per game over the last four games coming into the night, failed to score in double figures for the seventh time this season. She recorded nine points on 3-of-10 shooting and only knocked down one of her five attempts from deep.

"With the amount of turnovers, we didn't get as many shot attempts," Nakkasoglu said. "I think that's one big reason why we didn't have more than 42 (points) or we didn't have better shots."

SEE **WOMEN'S B-BALL**, PAGE 16

BASEBALL

Florida, behind explosive offense, eager to renew Miami rivalry tonight

By Ethan Bauer
Sports Writer

The 16th and final NCAA baseball regional announced in 2017 was Gainesville. The Gators obviously knew they were in, but in Coral Gables, crowded around a television in the bowels of Mark Light Field, the Hurricanes huddled together and lunged toward the screen in anticipation.

Their faces sank in unison.

Their hats covered their flooded eyes. Their arms held their heads in surrender. Their lockers reading "Omaha" suddenly had less meaning. For the first time in 44 years, the Miami Hurricanes hadn't made the postseason.

And the Florida Gators, whose regional was the last hope for the unusually middling 'Canes (32-27),

were part of the reason why.

Florida's pitching dismantled Miami last February, shutting them out on Friday and Saturday before finally allowing two runs on Sunday in UF's three-game sweep. And there's reason to believe that trend could continue this year.

UF's trio of starters — Brady Singer, Jackson Kowar and Tyler Dyson — looked polished on opening weekend. Singer, touted as the nation's top MLB Draft prospect, didn't allow an earned run in seven innings against Siena a week ago. His counterparts weren't too far behind.

But it's UF's offense that has been making headlines so far this season, and it'll look to continue doing so tonight when the No. 1 Gators (5-0) renew their once-a-year cross-state rivalry with the Miami

Hurricanes (2-2) at 7 p.m. in Coral Gables.

"It means a lot to us," outfielder Nelson Maldonado said. "We're going over there with our heads held high, and we expect a lot going into the weekend."

Maldonado has been Florida's top hitter so far this season. Through five starts and 17 at-bats, he's hitting .588 with five RBIs. He's not alone in his production.

Senior captain JJ Schwarz is right behind him at .474 with five RBIs of his own. Six regular starters in all are hitting over .333.

One surprise contributor has been Wil Dalton, a junior college transfer. Although his JUCO numbers were straight out of baseball fan fiction — a .392 average with 60 runs and 58 RBIs — those stats

SEE **BASEBALL**, PAGE 16

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Gators continue tough SEC slate against Auburn

By Andrew Huang
Sports Writer

It doesn't get any easier for Mike White and the Gators.

Florida's third-year coach will try to right the ship against No. 12 Auburn (24-4, 12-3 SEC) Saturday at 8:30 p.m. at the O'Connell Center. UF (17-11, 8-7 SEC) is coming off its third consecutive defeat, a 62-57 road loss to No. 19 Tennessee on Wednesday night.

Florida fell behind the Volunteers thanks to its worst first-half offensive performance of the season. The Gators were held to 18 points in the opening frame, but put up 39 points in the second half.

"They're one of the best defensive teams in the country," White said after the game. "Unfortunately, we had some open threes that

didn't go down, we didn't convert at the foul line like we needed to and of course, at the rim we continue to struggle."

The Tigers and Volunteers are first and second, respectively, in the SEC standings. Florida is in a six-way tie for third with Mississippi State, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri and Alabama.

The Gators face the Crimson Tide on Tuesday and close the regular season on March 3 against the Wildcats.

"The lower half of this league is full of a bunch of good teams," White said. "I think (the SEC Tournament) will be wide open."

The SEC's six-way tie for third place carries significant implications with the 2018 SEC Tournament less than two weeks away. The top four seeds get to sit out

SEE **MEN'S B-BALL**, PAGE 16



Coach **Roland Thornqvist** and the rest of Florida's women's tennis team is facing Saint Mary's today at 4 p.m.

Gators begin Last Chance Meet this morning

Florida's men's and women's swimming and diving teams are kicking off their final meet before the NCAA Championships today. The three-day event gives UF's swimmers a final opportunity to qualify for the national title meet. South Carolina, Miami and Florida Gulf Coast are also competing.

Follow us for updates

For updates on UF athletics, follow us on Twitter at @alligatorSports or online at www.alligator.org/sports



SOFTBALL

Gators doing their jobs ahead of this weekend's tourney

By Mari Faiello

Sports Writer

Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium fell silent Wednesday night with nothing but the wind blowing through the once echoing bleachers full of rowdy Gators fans.

The diamond was quiet, but the night was far from over for UF's softball team following its doubleheader with Oakland.

Once the stands were cleared after Florida's 6-2 and 10-0 victories over the Golden Grizzlies, the Gators took the field again. But they weren't competing against another team.

Instead, each player needed to complete their assigned chore, one that was given to them at the start of the season.

Sophomore pitcher Katie Chronister is responsible for cleaning the bullpen, which consists of raking it down and watering it before she calls it a day.

"It's a pretty good job for me because that's where I live," she said.

However, others aren't as lucky.

Freshman Jordan Matthews is responsible for picking up bags and coolers.

Others, like sophomore catcher Jordan Roberts, have more challenging jobs. Roberts is responsible for keeping home plate — in addition to the pitcher's circle — spotless.

"I think it's just a pride thing to do that for our managers and help them out," she said. "Even though we know it's tedious and sometimes we don't want to do it, it's a pride thing, and you feel good because you take care of your own field in that way."

This year, the Gators softball team competed for jobs like these in their Orange and Blue game — an intrasquad scrimmage held before the season began.

The winning team got to choose which chores they wanted first, and then the losing team picked from what was left in order of seniority.

Florida will return to its "real" job again this weekend at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium at the Aquafina Invitational.

The Gators (10-1) will take on Maryland (2-7), Illinois State

(4-6), Iowa State (6-4) and Georgia Southern (7-2) in a six-game home tournament.

Friday afternoon, the Gators will take on Maryland at 4:30 and Illinois State at 7.

Florida will follow with two games a piece on Saturday and Sunday.

"It can be exhausting," Roberts said.

Coach Tim Walton said that playing at home has its advantages.

"We can do a lot more here with our video, so it's good to go back and teach and get some teaching moments," he said.

Walton is confident that his pitching staff and defense will be able to handle the heavy schedule.

He will also count on the depth of his roster to play multiple positions when needed.

"That's the beauty of playing so many games, we get a chance to get a lot of different looks," he said. "It's a nice luxury to have athletes in all positions."

@faiello_mari
mfaiello@alligator.org



Alligator File Photo

Sophomore pitcher Katie Chronister is responsible for the postgame task of cleaning UF's bullpen after home games. "It's a pretty good job," she said.

TRACK & FIELD

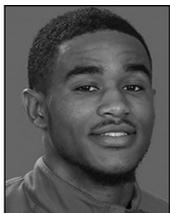
Florida heads to College Station for SEC Indoor Championships

By Alanis Thames

Sports Writer

At James G. Pressly Stadium on Tuesday, you could hear the deafening blast of a starter pistol going off every few minutes, followed by the sight of a small puff of smoke whirling up into the air.

Athletes lay on the ground stretching, and coaches stood watching on the sides wearing caps and sunglasses.



Bates

Senior KeAndre Bates, junior Yanis David and sophomore Clayton Brown took turns making long, structured strides before leaping into a rectangular sandpit, preparing for their upcoming events.

The mood all around was one of excitement and anticipation.

UF's No. 2 men's and No. 8 women's track and field teams will travel to College Station, Texas, to compete in the 2018 Indoor SEC Championships at Gilliam Indoor Stadium this weekend. Coverage will begin on SEC Network at 3:55 p.m. on Saturday and 6 p.m. on Sunday.

"We live for this time of year," coach Mike Holloway said. "The SEC meet is one of the best meets in the world, and we're just blessed and fortunate to be a part of it."

Bates, the reigning indoor national champion, will look to collect the fourth SEC title of his college career this weekend. The three-time 2017 SEC Champion holds titles in the indoor and outdoor triple jumps as well as the outdoor long jump.

Bates said in practice on Tuesday that to prepare for SECs, he has been focused on listening to his coaches and sticking to what has worked.

In addition to the exhilaration of being in a championship environment, there are two things that excite the El Paso native about returning to his home state: family and Shipley Do-nuts.

His biggest goal for the meet is simple.

"Execute," Bates said. "Because the marks come after. (They) don't even exist until they happen anyways, so it's (about) execution."

Bates has led the nation all season in the men's triple jump, and he ranks seventh nationally in the long jump.

For freshman Amanda Froeynes, she will be competing in the first SEC indoor championships of her collegiate career.

Froeynes has been leaning on her coaches and experienced teammates to help her get ready for the conference meet.

"They're my family," she said. "They're just really supportive."

She will compete in the pentathlon on Saturday and in the high jump on Sunday.

"Of course I'm nervous, but I'm really excited to see what I can do now," Froeynes said. "I feel like I'm in better shape now than I was when I did my pentathlon three weeks ago."

UF is seeking its eighth SEC title on the men's side and ninth on the women's side.

"We started preparing them mentally from the first day of practice," Holloway said. "We need to match the drive, desire and intensity of the other teams there. If we do that, we'll be fine."

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GYMNASTICS

UF facing Arkansas tonight in 12th annual Link to Pink

By Alana Gomez

Sports Writer

The Florida gymnastics team is finding its groove, having won its previous five meets by an average of 0.480 points.

Coming off its second-highest road total of the season — a 196.950-point performance to defeat Georgia on Feb. 16 — it returns home tonight to host No. 11 Arkansas (2-7, 2-4 SEC).

But as Florida tries to extend its winning streak to six consecutive meets, it will have something else on its mind as well.

For the 12th year in a row, UF (6-1, 4-1 SEC) will don pink uniforms instead of its regular orange or blue ones to support breast cancer awareness at the annual Gators Link to Pink meet. The cause is an extra source of motivation for the Gators, a team that usually draws its energy off each other and its packed home crowd.

"When I first came to Florida, we did the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, and it was really great to see all those survivors and their fight," freshman Alyssa Baumann said. "I wanna compete this weekend for them."

The meet holds a more personal meaning for junior Alicia Boren.

Boren is proud to call her aunt, Kathy, a cancer survivor and was happy to share the Gators' victory last year on Jan. 27 with her when she attended their Link to Pink meet against Auburn.

Tonight, Kathy will watch her niece perform for a great cause again against the Razorbacks.

"I'm excited to be able to have that with her again this year," Boren said. "Seeing the smile on her face makes the smile on my face even bigger."

UF has defeated the Razorbacks in six straight regular-season meets, but this year, Arkansas draws confidence from its own wins against Georgia on Jan. 26 and Auburn on Feb. 9.

But as the Gators enter their eighth meet of the season, coach Jenny Rowland has moved her attention further down the schedule.

"(We're) starting to focus on trying to get those lineups solidified here in the next couple of weeks and ready for postseason," Rowland said.

With the team still having two more meets left in the regular season, Rowland can settle for now with Florida's most recent success. This includes the Gators' latest win against Georgia, where five different Gators made eight career- or season-best marks.

"All in all, execution, landings, the team's just been doing a fabulous job stepping up everyday in the gym and actually transferring that onto the competition floor," Rowland said.

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Dalton hitting .471 this season

BASEBALL, from pg. 14

usually don't translate to the Division I level. Through five games, Dalton is exceeding them with a .471 average and a team-best nine RBIs.

"A lot of guys are off to a good start," Schwarz said. "So hopefully we bring that into Miami."

The Hurricanes, meanwhile, have shown shades of last season. The team's only consistent hitter has been former Florida outfielder Danny Reyes.

Reyes played at Florida in 2016 but transferred to Broward College after the season. He's now starting in left field for the Hurricanes, and he's hitting .571.

Aside from knowing Reyes, many Florida players are also acquainted with some of Miami's pitchers. Friday night starter Jeb Bargfeldt started against the Gators last year (six innings, two earned runs), and fellow week-

end starter Evan McKendry pitched in relief (two innings, no earned runs).

"We're familiar with a lot of their pitchers and Danny Reyes, who's off to a great start," Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "It'll be a good challenge for us to go on the road for the first time."

Maldonado and Schwarz both have memories of raucous Miami fans from two years ago, noting that Hurricanes fans are loud and proud, which is probably why O'Sullivan thinks the experience will be good for younger players.

However, his veterans aren't too worried about the noise.

"Their fans stay on you the whole time," Schwarz said. "Hopefully we bring our best baseball so the fans don't play a part in it."

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Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

Florida baseball coach Kevin O'Sullivan is feeling confident heading into the Gators' three-game series against Miami this weekend. "It'll be a good challenge for us," he said.

Chiozza scored 11 vs. Vols

MEN'S BBALL, from pg 14

the first two rounds of the tournament on March 7 and 8, resting instead until the quarterfinals on March 9.

This only puts more pressure on the Gators to start finding wins late in the season, starting with Auburn.

The Tigers are coming off a 90-71 victory over Alabama on Wednesday, their eighth in the last 10 games.

They avenged a 76-71 loss on Jan. 17 to the Crimson Tide without their second leading scorer, sophomore guard Mustapha Heron (illness) and sophomore forward Anfernee McLemore (out for the season with an ankle injury).

McLemore leads the SEC in blocks, swatting 2.7 shots per game.

Auburn received big performances

from guards Bryce Brown and Jared Harper against Alabama. Brown, the Tigers' leading scorer on the season, had 18 points while Harper, the Tigers' leading assist man, poured in 21 points.

Auburn's backcourt will be a handful for Florida guard Chris Chiozza, who started to look like his old self against the Volunteers with 11 points, nine assists and six rebounds.

Chiozza had scored in single digits in four of the previous five games and will look to continue getting his rhythm back against the Tigers.

"It's an incredibly difficult league," White said. "It's got tremendous depth."

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Final home game for UF's seniors

WOMEN'S B-BALL, from pg. 14

The Gators were also missing one of their key playmakers during the game. Sophomore Delicia Washington was held out due to a nagging left ankle injury. Newbauer said her status is day-to-day and that the Gators' starting guard wanted to give it a go even with her ailment.

"We just didn't feel like it was the best thing for our program," he said.

Despite the loss, the Gators' home crowd stuck around to pay its respects to a few of its own. For Hersler, forward Haley Lorenzen and guard Dyan-dria Anderson, Thursday night was the last time the three seniors would play at the O'Connell Center.

"These fans are special," Lorenzen said. "These fans are always going to come back because of the foundation that we're laying for this year."

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Florida's Thursday Night Woes

- 2 third-quarter points
- 2-of-18 three-point shooting
- 4-of-7 free-throw shooting
- 25 turnovers

The Grog
Bar & Grill
HOUSE 18 & UP

FRIDAY
BEAT-THE-CLOCK
(Wells & Drafts start at 25¢)
LIVE DJ

SATURDAY
Wells & Drafts start at 25¢
LIVE DJ

1718 West University Avenue

THE SOCIAL
AT MIDTOWN
restaurant & rooftop bar

FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIALS
\$9.99 Buffalo Blue Chicken Sandwich Basket

FRIDAY
NIGHT 7pm-12 am

\$3 Margaritas on Tap
\$3 Lemon Drop Shots
\$4 First Mag Pints

LIVE DJ
9 pm - Close

SATURDAY
NIGHT SPECIALS
7 pm - 12 am

\$3 Tequila Shots
\$4 Jager & Fireball Shots
\$4 Swamphead Drafts

LIVE DJ
9 pm - Close

SUNDAY
FUN DAY

\$3 Premium Wells
\$3 Pork Rinds
\$4 STOLI Mules
\$4 Edamame
\$4 First Mag Pints

LIVE DJ
9 pm - Close

1728 West University Avenue