

# alligator



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## GPD: UF student rapes friend after fraternity event



Maletta

**By Robert Lewis**  
Alligator Staff Writer

A UF student was arrested Monday for raping a female friend he has known for about four years after a fraternity function Oct. 17, Gainesville Police said.

Thomas Peter Maletta, 19, of St. Augustine, was arrested for raping a woman he'd known since high school after taking her to a club and his fraternity's date function, according to an

arrest report. The rape happened in the woman's apartment while her three roommates were awake, police said.

Before leaving for the date, the woman told her roommates that he was just her friend and she didn't want to have sex with him, according to the report. She had a glass of wine at the apartment and a mixed alcoholic drink, which Maletta held at one point, at the fraternity, police said.

The pair arrived to the woman's apartment at about 2 a.m., police said.

Once inside her room, Maletta grabbed her neck, and forced her to perform oral, vaginal and anal sex, according to the report.

The woman's roommates, who were awake, heard thumping noises and began to worry for her, according to the report. When one friend intervened, she knew the woman was too drunk to consent and eventually kicked Maletta out, according to the report.

In a call set up by police, Maletta told the woman he was sorry and ad-

mitted what he did was wrong, according to the report.

After his arrest, he told police that he did have oral and vaginal sex with her, according to the report. He apologized and said he didn't realize he had done anything wrong before the call.

He was arrested on a charge of sexual battery and taken to the Alachua County Jail where he was released Tuesday afternoon on a \$10,000 bond. Maletta could not be reached for comment.

## Deputies: Eastside High School student brought loaded gun to school

**POLICE SAID HE DID NOT MAKE ANY THREATS TO THE SCHOOL.**

**By Robert Lewis**  
Alligator Staff Writer

A 17-year-old student brought a loaded gun to Eastside High School just 13 days after 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in a school shooting, Alachua County Sheriff's Office said.

Deputies assigned to the high school took a loaded black revolver with ivory-colored grips out of the student's backpack after faculty found it. The faculty smelled marijuana coming from a bathroom, and sent the student and another to the dean's office Tuesday, said ACSO Sgt. Brett Rhodenizer.

The student struggled briefly to get away from ACSO deputies after they found the gun, Rhodenizer said. After his arrest, he declined to

tell detectives why he brought the gun to school.

Rhodenizer said the student was a delinquent before today's incident but hadn't made any threats to the school. His name was not released by officials due to his age.

"We believe the firearm was related to other criminal activity and not brought in as a threat to the school," Rhodenizer said.

Alachua County Public Schools spokesperson Jackie Johnson said the student is a junior at the high school. The protocol for these incidents is the student is automatically suspended for 10 days and recommended for expulsion.

He was arrested on charges of possession of a firearm on school property and possession of a firearm by a delinquent. He was taken to the Juvenile Detention Center.

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Will Clewis / Alligator Staff

### CARNIVAL FUN

From left: UF students Sarah Kendall, a 19-year-old marketing freshman, and Ciara Chappell, a 19-year-old biochemistry freshman, enjoy the Reckless carnival ride at the A Day At The Carnival event hosted by the Reitz Programming Board on the Reitz Union North Lawn on Monday afternoon. Chappell said they came for the cotton candy and to get a taste of what they missed at the state fair.

## James Patterson gives \$3 million to College of Education

**THE PROGRAM SEEKS TO DOUBLE THE STATE'S LITERACY RATE IN CHILDREN.**

**By Robert Lewis**  
Alligator Staff Writer

When UF College of Education administrators asked author James Patterson for \$3 million to start a literacy program, he agreed

— but with a challenge.

The donation was announced Monday along with Patterson's challenge to use the money to double the state of Florida's child literacy rate, said Holly Lane, a UF professor of special education.

Lane will lead the James Patterson Literacy Challenge, which aims to double the number of children in Florida who can read proficiently, she said.

"I think that the doors that having him as-

sociated with the program opens are really fantastic," Lane said.

The program will include a website with content that teachers can use to practice reading and will work directly with local schools to improve their reading education, Lane said.

"We're really customizing the professional development to fit the school's needs, and that's pretty unique," Lane said.

Vivian Gonsalves, a UF clinical assistant professor, works with the teachers hired

through the project. She said they are working with Alachua County schools to see which schools would benefit most from the program.

The project organizers hope to expand the program to four or five other school districts across the state by next year, Gonsalves said.

"My biggest hope is that we can put in the hands of teachers techniques and teaching methods that can really help kids learn to read," Gonsalves said.

### AGENT DOUBLE ZERO

UF's Delicia Washington was so devastated after former coach Amanda Butler lost her job, she almost left the program, **pg. 14**



### Student Government elects new Senate President

A former Impact senator was elected, **pg. 3**

### Local band to perform at NYC magazine show

Read about Whale Feral, **pg. 8**

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## Today's Weather



AM



NOON



PM

HIGH 82° LOW 62°

Local Events / News in Brief



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Add it to the **alligator's**  
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### 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. The event, free and open to the public, will be an opportunity to network with U.S. and international Fulbright participants. For more information, email [mcardec@ufic.ufl.edu](mailto:mcardec@ufic.ufl.edu).

#### Law in the Library: Restoration of Civil Rights Workshops

The Alachua County Library District is partnering with the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association to present "Law in the Library: Restoration of Civil Rights Workshops" from 4:30 to 6 p.m. March 22 at Cone Park Library Branch, located at 2801 E. University Ave., and 5:30 to 7 p.m. April 5 at Tower Road Library Branch, located at 3020 SW 75th St. For more information, visit [aclib.us/law](http://aclib.us/law) or call 352-334-3900.

#### Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an email with "What's Happening" in the subject line to [jtavel@alligator.org](mailto:jtavel@alligator.org). Please model your submissions after the above events, and keep them to 150 words or fewer.

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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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# Senate elects leaders, shows support to shooting victims

## NINE SENATORS READ GOODBYE SPEECHES.

By Christina Morales  
Alligator Staff Writer

Former Senate President Ian Green choked up in his goodbye speech Tuesday night.

"Your time in Senate is what you make of it," Green advised the senators in the chamber.

Student Body president-elect Green was one of nine former senators who gave goodbye speeches, including Student Body treasurer-elect Stefan Sanguyo.

Green was replaced as Senate president by Danielle Grosse (Impact, District A), who was elected by majority vote Tuesday night. Minority Party Leader and Senator Nathan Morse (Inspire, District D) lost against Grosse by 64-25.

Grosse has served on the Senate Executive Board and as the chairwoman of the Information and Communication Committee. She said she wants to build the Senate community through a mentorship program and retreats.

"I want to work with all parties to ensure that dignity and respect is held," Grosse said in the Senate meeting. "I want to make sure everyone's voice is heard. In Senate, I know that all 100 of us could



Danielle Grosse stands before the senators as she is sworn in on Tuesday evening in the Reitz Union Chamber Room. She was elected as the new Senate president by a 64-25 vote.

work together to leave a lasting impact on this university."

The Senate also elected a new Senate president pro tempore and two members-at-large.

Senator Michael Murphy (Impact, District A) was elected as Senate president pro tempore by a 63-25 vote. He ran against Senator Mackintosh "Mack" Joachim (Inspire, Graham).

Murphy is currently the chair

of the Newell Hall Advisory Board and serves on the Tech Fee Committee. He's also the Director of Special Projects for External Affairs.

"I'm excited to work with both sides of the aisle and working as a congestive unit towards a shared goal," Murphy said.

Senators Katelyn Hernandez (Impact, District C) and Chad Grodi (Impact, District B) were

elected as the Senate's two members-at-large and will serve on the Replacement and Agenda committee.

Senate also passed six resolutions, including two supporting the victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting and gun reform, and two endorsing programs to help Other Personnel Services (OPS) employees, who are paid hourly and not

given benefits.

At the meeting, senators also certified by unanimous consent the Spring 2018 election results, which were announced Wednesday.

Students spoke in the meeting time about fundraising efforts for UF Stands with MSD, a group trying to go to Washington D.C. to be a part of the March for Our Lives.

Jaime Roy, an ambassador for Voters Everywhere, which is an organization that registers voters and makes petitions to restore felons' rights, expressed her disappointment in senators for not passing a resolution supporting early voting after it was passed Sunday in the Judiciary Committee.

Natalia Ortega, the agency head of Chomp the Vote, a Student Government agency dedicated to raising voter awareness, said officials have already supported the organization's strides toward turning campus spots into early voting locations.

"The problem on campus is not that we don't have a place for early voting on campus," Ortega said, adding that another issue is apathy from voters.

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

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# After Parkland shooting, new club to call for gun reform

By Christina Morales  
Alligator Staff Writer

Elyssa Hauptman was waiting for an order of Midnight Cookies to arrive at her house before work. Then, she got a text from her friend at 2:50 p.m.

"Douglas shooting," it read.

"I was kind of waiting for her to text me and say, 'Oh no, it was a rumor,'" the UF biology sophomore and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School alumna said. "But that text never came."

Hauptman, 20, spoke to about 30 at the first meeting of a newly conceived club called Gators Against Gun Violence about fundrais-

ing for UF Stands for MSD's trip to Washington D.C. after shooter Nikolas Cruz killed 17 people in her high school two weeks ago.

Club founder Chris Bell said he came up with the idea for the organization when he attended a vigil in honor of the victims last Wednesday. At the Monday meeting, the club's members discussed ways to protest, register voters and get students to go out and vote for the midterm elections.

"I was pretty inspired," the 22-year-old said. "It would be easy to keep as a remembrance, but it was a call to action."

Bell, a UF political science, history and Spanish senior, hopes the club will meet bi-weekly and be registered with the Student Ac-

tivities and Involvement office.

The movement for gun reform changed when students who were affected decided to take a stand, Bell said.

"There's something innocent about being a child," he said. "I think it's different because they're kids but also old enough to where they want to take action, and they have done so. I think it's really incredible how far they've pushed this."

Hauptman had a 15-year-old brother and a 17-year-old brother at the school.

When her 17-year-old brother heard the shots ring out, he ran to a Walmart that was less than a mile from the school. Her 15-year-old brother was in the building next to where

the shooting occurred, and he hid in the back of a classroom for about an hour.

"It felt like time had stopped moving, and I just couldn't breathe until I knew that everyone in my family was safe," Hauptman said.

Hauptman said Stoneman Douglas was the last place she expected a shooting to happen.

"I've heard of school shootings, so I've considered the possibility of it happening at my school, but I didn't ever take it seriously," she said. "It's not something you think would happen to you."

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# GUIDE TO DINING OUT

## BREAKFAST

### Bagels & Noodles

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

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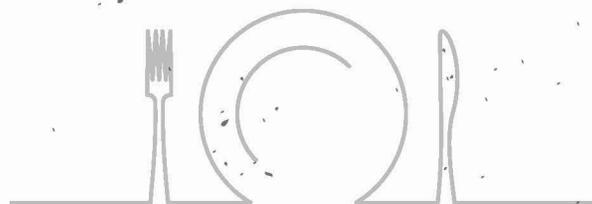
### Manuel's Vintage Room

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## SOUTHERN

### The Yearling Restaurant

Since 1952 Gators have been coming to The Yearling Restaurant. If your parents, grandparents, or greatgrandparents went to UF they most likely ate here. We serve gator, frog legs, duck, quail + venison + a wide variety of seafood + steaks. Top it off with our famous sour orange pie. Now that is a meal any FL Gator can enjoy. So come on out to the creek + take a step back in time. Only here can you see the legendary bluesman Willie "The Real Deal" Green, playing nightly.



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# UF fraternity welcomes 3-year-old as honorary member

By **Amanda Rosa**  
Alligator Staff Writer

When he held up his honorary bid card to UF Pi Kappa Alpha, 3-year-old Declan Patrick smiled from ear to ear.

Declan, who's a patient at UF Health Shands Hospital, wore an orange and blue Gator visor too big for his head and a large garnet PIKE polo shirt over his clothes when he became the fraternity's newest member Feb. 12. That night, Declan fell asleep in his fraternity polo, said his mother, Kathy Patrick.

While Declan has many symptoms commonly associated with cerebral palsy, his doctors still need more evidence to confirm a proper diagnosis, Patrick said.

Alec Blanco, a UF industrial engineering junior and fraternity brother, said he heard about Declan's story from his girlfriend, Emily Bateh, a UF speech therapy sophomore. She met the Patrick family through Dance Marathon.

Bateh, 19, showed Blanco, 21, pictures and videos of Declan playing football with braces strapped

to his legs and a beaming smile on his face. Blanco said the toddler reminded him of himself as a kid, and he wanted Declan to have more of a normal childhood.

After deciding he wanted to make Declan an honorary fraternity brother, Blanco reached out to Declan's mom.

"My mouth hit the floor. I never imagined something like that would happen," Patrick said. "I was just awestruck. It was an amazing feeling."

Now the toddler has a home away from home in between his weekly visits to the hospital. His family drives an hour and a half from Wildwood to Gainesville three times a week for his doctor appointments at Shands, Patrick said.

The group celebrated Declan's bid by surprising him with a new basketball and football signed by all of the fraternity brothers. Patrick said her son wasted no time grabbing the basketball to play catch outside with his new friends.

At the bidding celebration, Patrick spoke about her son's medical conditions. Declan was diagnosed

with ketotic hypoglycemia, a blood sugar condition, after spending a total of 63 days in hospitals last year, sometimes staying for weeks at a time. Although Declan suffers from painful leg muscle spasms and wears leg braces to walk, nothing stops his energetic personality, she said.

"They don't have to make him a part of their lives, but they do it because they have big hearts," she said. "It's just overwhelming for a mother. It's overwhelming."

Despite the constant doctor appointments, Declan faces life with an upbeat personality and energy to spare, Blanco said. The 3-foot-4-inch sportslover is always ready to dunk a basketball, as long as somebody lifts him up to the hoop first.

Blanco, a UF business administration freshman, said although Declan was shy at first, he quickly warmed up.

"As soon as he saw how excited we were for him, he just really brightened up," the 18-year-old said.

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Courtesy to The Alligator

Declan Patrick, a 3-year-old UF Health Shands patient, holds up his honorary bid card to UF Pi Kappa Alpha. The fraternity gave Declan a basketball and football signed by all the fraternity brothers.

## UF students write body positivity messages on mirrors

By **Marina Burke**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

Anthony Flores scribbled on white construction paper covering a Peabody Hall gender-neutral bathroom with a black sharpie Monday afternoon.

"You only have 1 body, love it," Flores wrote. They finished it off with a heart around the phrase.

Flores participated in Mirrorless Monday, the first day of Celebrate EveryBODY, a series of events in honor of the National Eating Disorder Association's awareness week. To encourage students to write positive messages about their bodies, bathroom mirrors on campus buildings were covered in papers with pens left beside them. The locations included the Reitz Union, Peabody Hall, the Student Health and Wellness Center and Library West.

UF's GatorWell Health Promotion Services is holding the three-event series, which will promote positive self-image, said Gatorwell spokesperson Joel Axon.

"We're all about creating a culture for health, wellness and student success," he said.

Flores, a UF visual art studies sophomore who prefers a gender-neutral pronoun, has struggled with anorexia and body dysmorphia for eight years.

Flores decided to start making changes by going to counseling and implementing a nutrient-heavy vegan diet.

"A body is something to carry your soul, but it doesn't define who you are," Flores said.

Marissa Jadotte wrote "Beauty is something that should never be taken away from you," with a black sharpie in the women's bathroom on the second floor of Library West.

The UF health science sophomore said she grew up in a predominantly white community in Palm City, Florida, and struggled with her self-image as one of the few women of color.

Jadotte said joining UF's Multicultural Association of Pre-Health Students allowed her to experience a more diverse community, which helped her realize beauty comes in different shapes, sizes and skin colors, she said.

"It was life-changing," she said.

## Faculty and staff parking fees to increase by 7 percent

IT WILL TAKE EFFECT MAY 1.

By **Elliott Nasby**  
Alligator Staff Writer

All faculty and staff parking decals will cost about \$8 more per semester starting May 1.

A 7 percent increase in decal prices will fund the construction of the 14th campus parking garage, said Scott Fox, the director of Transportation and Parking Services.

The new garage will be built near the existing faculty and staff lot located on Gale Lemerand Drive and has a maximum budget of \$34.2 million with a planned completion date of January 2020, according to Alligator archives.

The price increase amounts to paying about 50 cents per week for orange and blue staff decals.

The change will impact only faculty and staff, not students, because the state,

which approves campus construction projects like the new garage, instructed UF not to raise student fees, Fox said.

Alternative revenue sources that were considered included raising the price for parking fines or metered parking, he said.

Fox said prices will gradually rise over a five-year period instead of increasing by a large percentage all at once.

Tammy Tucker, a UF Health employee, parks at the lot on Gale Lemerand and said the new garage would help alleviate some of the extra stress she feels while trying to find a parking space after 7:30 a.m. However, she said the new spots may just get taken up anyway by the 500 additional faculty and staff UF is hiring.

"It's a little bit much when you're not even guaranteed a parking spot," Tucker, 43, said. "Paying to park to be able to work is, to me, something novel in itself."

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## UF science department recognized for diverse faculty

By **Remi Storch**  
Alligator Contributing Writer

Only 16 African American women teach computer science and engineering in universities across the country, according to a report. UF employs four of them.

UF's Department of Computer and Information Science and Engineering announced Feb. 21 it was named No. 1 for the most African American female faculty members. The rankings were measured by the American Society for Engineering Education, a nonprofit organization that focuses on advancing engineer-

ing education, said Juan Gilbert, the department chair.

Nationally, 179 public and private universities sent in their demographics to be measured. About 2,800 computer and information science faculty members were reported — only 16 were female African Americans.

"We are extremely proud of this accomplishment," Gilbert said. "We believe it represents what it means to be a UF engineering Gator."

The department also had the highest number of African American faculty members. Out of the 42 African American faculty reported nationally, UF employs five.

Out of the 482 women reported in the field nationally, UF employs 12.

The field of computer engineering and sciences lacks diversity, Gilbert said. So UF's department strives to be inclusive of members from different backgrounds.

"If you have greater diversity, you have better ideas," he said.

Grace McGowan, a 19-year-old UF computer science engineering freshman, said she chose her major because she knew, as a woman, she would be a minority. She thought she could stand out in the field.

While most of her classmates are male and a small number are African

American, McGowan said the recognition shows that the department is taking steps toward diversity.

"I feel proud to be a part of a college and a school that is dedicated to promoting engineers of all race and genders to succeed," she said.

Kyla McMullen, a UF assistant professor, is one of the four African American female faculty members in the department. She said she knows firsthand the lack of diversity in her field.

She was the first African American woman to graduate with a Ph.D. in computer science and engineering from the University of Michigan in 2012.

McMullen said she remembers feeling isolated during her graduate years. She once went to an adviser for guidance, who just suggested she change majors.

Those experiences made her want to serve as a mentor for minority students who may have similar feelings, she said.

McMullen said departments should be trying to make an effort to have diversity in their faculty and students. But this accomplishment for UF gives her hope and shows the strides African Americans have made in the field.

"We are the hopes and the dreams of our ancestors," she said.

## Editorial

## This Spring Break, act responsibly

**W**e're almost there, just three more days until Spring Break. Some of you may be ducking out early. Some of you may be extending yours into the next week.

We're sure many of you have trips planned across the country and maybe abroad. You've earned it. It's been a long semester. But allow us to make this public service announcement: Don't do something horribly stupid.

We get it. It's probably the first time you're all alone with friends for a whole week with unlimited alcohol and partying. But that's not an excuse. Whether it's your first tequila shot ever or your 70th, remember the basics: Drink water. Eat. Keep cash on you. Space out your drinks, and make sure you're with others who will actually make sure you're okay if you have too much to drink. (This is especially important if you're going abroad and aren't fluent in the language.)

And please, dear reader, when you come back with tan lines, pledging you'll never take a sip of alcohol in your life again, don't post pictures on social media doing body shots or topless dances. While boasting your warm weather adventures might seem like a great idea right now, we promise potential employers won't agree. Whether you graduate this May or in five years, make sure you're maintaining a professional image online. Think about it: If you stalk your crush before going on a date, your employer is definitely stalking you before signing a contract with you.

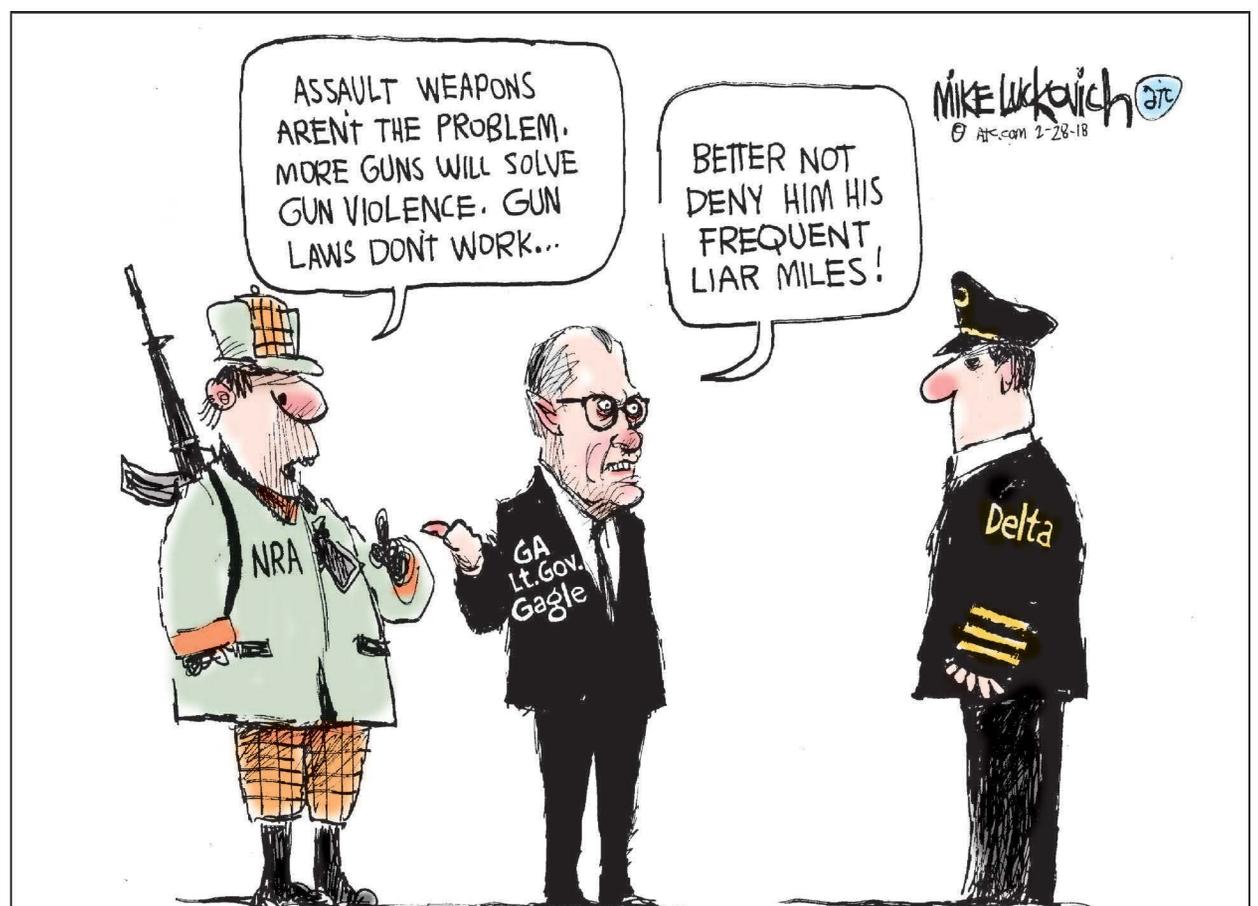
The problem is, college students get drunk not only on liquor, but on the power of their youth and the freedom that comes with being in your early 20s. But social media has changed the landscape of how memories are shared. It's no longer just by word of mouth, but by the power vested in Snapchat, Twitter and Facebook, your actions can spread further than a hotel room and public beaches. If someone chooses to take a video of you acting drunk and disorderly on a beach, it's not exactly illegal; just ask Becky Lynn Gritzke, a former Florida State University student who exposed her breasts to producers for "Girls Gone Wild" during Mardi Gras and later tried to sue. While Gritzke eventually settled with the company, it doesn't change the fact that the photos were out there.

College students, you are on the brink of adulthood. Some are filing taxes, and others may even already have jobs lined up. Don't let one week ruin that for you. Don't let your drunk self become a viral meme. Because once there's an incident, it becomes news. And once it's news, the information is public and available for all. However, despite the popular misconception that The Alligator particularly enjoys writing about students getting arrested, we don't. We're just doing our job covering news.

So when you're sipping on your eighth margarita and the sun still hasn't set, make sure you're acting responsibly by letting another adult know about where you are and that you are, in fact, drunk. Don't try to make your way home by stealing a motorcycle or knocking some over. Don't bring a bad name to UF, because for some reason, officers tend to think, "It's always UF."

Melissa Gomez EDITOR  
Abby Miller OPINIONS EDITOR  
Caitlin Ostroff MANAGING EDITOR, ONLINE  
Jimena Tavel MANAGING EDITOR, PRINT

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## Column

## Why are strong female songs written by men?

**"S**omething about you makes me feel like a dangerous woman." These lyrics, sung soulfully by Ariana Grande, have become an anthem for women that transcends age, relationship status and worldview.

"Don't need permission, made my decision to test my limits," Grande croons to open the ballad. And with that, girls in clubs sip their vodka sodas with a little more clout, and women in their cars turn up the volume on the stereo and maybe even roll down a window. Lyrics like these make most women feel more confident, more in control, more like a dangerous woman who shouldn't be messed with. This is why I didn't know how to feel when I learned the words were written by men named Johan Carlsson, Martin Karl Sandberg and Ross Golan.

For the record, this doesn't make me love Grande any less, nor am I mad that she didn't write "Dangerous Woman" herself. But why three dudes?

Grande and her team aren't the only culprits of the crime of hiring men to write female-empowering songs — or popular songs period. Rihanna's "Take a Bow" was penned by Mikkel Eriksen, Tor Erik Hermansen and Shaffer Smith. Men wrote Britney Spears' "Stronger," too. And "Since U Been Gone" by Kelly Clarkson — the song that got us all through breakups with our middle-school boyfriends of a week? Those were lyrics by Sandberg and Lukasz "Dr. Luke" Gottwald. Yes, that Dr. Luke.

Only 12 percent of the most popular 600 songs from the last six years were written by women, according to a recent study by the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Female producers only made up 2 percent for the top 300 in the same time period. From all of the other incredibly skewed statistics from the study, one thing is clear: Men are making the music. It's not because women aren't trying.

The overwhelming number of successful male songwriters has created the false idea that men are better lyricists,



Carly Breit

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even when it comes to writing songs for women to sing. It's that intrinsic thought that leads pop singers and their teams to hire men instead. Just nine men wrote roughly 20 percent of the 600 songs sampled in the study. They've profited from a long history of choosing men to pen songs. They'll continue to get these opportunities rather than women if we don't actively push for change.

Male privilege is everywhere: It's in our classrooms, our wage gaps, our elections and, as was evident in the Golden Globes' (all male) director

category, our movies. It's disappointing but not surprising that this privilege has made its way into our music, too. By passing over lesser known female songwriters in favor of well-known male songwriters, the industry is leaving out voices that need to be heard and lyrics that need to be sung.

Music has the power to make us all feel less alone and more understood, but it also has the important power to steer the public conversation and set the agenda for change. With male songwriters egregiously favored, women are denied the ability to exist in such an influential space.

Like any movement for women, it's clearly our responsibility to stand up for ourselves before powerful men will follow suit. In the last six years of the most popular music, just over 35 percent of songs sung by women were written or co-written by another woman. Female pop singers should remember this when they decide to recruit a man to write their lyrics. With gender equality in the zeitgeist, now is the time.

Each of us can do our part to level the playing field for female songwriters. We can all be more cognizant of downloading and purchasing songs written by women, especially women of color, who are even more of a minority in songwriting and producing. Let's support the female artists behind the music just as much as we support the ones on stage.

Carly Breit is a UF journalism senior. Her column focuses on feminism.

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

## Column

## Don't forget to remember self-awareness in the pursuit of self-care

**W**hether you namaste or “namaste in bed,” the concept of self-care means something different for everyone.

In recent years, from face masks to fancy meditation sessions, the practice of self-care has taken center stage in the name of investing time, energy and money into ourselves.

Though self-care has been around for centuries, the current generation of spin-class-obsessed young adults is spending more money than other cohorts on self-care rituals and activities like diet plans, exercise programs and mental well-being rituals.

According to the Pew Research Center, in 2015, more millennials reported making personal improvements and engaging in self-care than any other generation before them.

Why is that?

Well, the practice of self-care, like other social trends and behaviors, did not emerge in a vacuum. Many sociologists argue that even the most seemingly fleeting fads stem from societal, historical and cultural factors. A concept known as the sociological imagination explains how social forces influence individuals and groups of people to adopt certain behaviors.

This might explain why Google searches on the term self-care reached a five-year high after the 2016 presidential election.

The polarizing results of the election created a high-stress national landscape, and data from Google Trends shows a staggering number of people turned to the internet to dig deeper into self-care remedies during that time.

In times of tragedy, headlines and hashtags promote self-care to remind internet users to take a break from the news cycle to simply relax and self-reflect.

The origins of self-care also lie in the psychological concept known as the self-project. Self-projects are long-term journeys where individuals seek to find a greater sense of themselves or better themselves in a dramatic way.

Examples of self-projects people may experience in life are embarking on a major fitness journey, deciding to start a family or even starting a business they've been dreaming of for years.



**Darcy Schild**  
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These complex and oftentimes taxing and challenging projects can be rewarding. These experiences truly give an individual a greater sense of their identity, and, as sociologists say, a sense of self or purpose.

Like self-care, self-projects — though it may involve other people — are largely introspective and deal with the transformation of inner thoughts, emotions and attitudes.

In this day and age, the lines between self-care and downright procrastination are sometimes blurred. It seems like anything outside of the office or the classroom can be classified as self-care — even if it's not necessarily beneficial or enriching to one's life.

And though I can't criticize anyone, including myself, for making time for calming, healthy, good-for-the-soul activities, I think my generation has taken some elements of self-care too far. Often, they perpetuate the “treat-yo'-self” mentality too much, and it's not always positive.

Self-care is a double-edged sword. While it's certainly beneficial and important, it has also given us an excuse to put off projects and responsibilities that, in their own ways, are rewarding, enriching and meaningful.

So what's the solution? We should remember that self-care goes beyond the surface of all-natural skin products, chia seed-filled teas and Netflix binge sessions. It's about crafting a life filled with meaningful experiences and projects, which means working hard and doing the things we love.

Whether we finally start that novel we've always dreamt about writing, learn a new language or create an organization that's meaningful to us, we should recognize what we love to do and embrace our ambitions as a form of self-care in its own right.

I think the practice of self-care means nothing unless it's combined with a sense of self-awareness. If we truly care about ourselves, we should show ourselves love by investing in projects and passions that are important to us.

*Darcy Schild is a UF journalism junior. Her column focuses on human behavior and sociology.*

## Column

## Don't let the opinions of famous people shape your worldviews

**I**'m not sure there are people who know what they are talking about when talking about politics.

Even the experts, the ones who were so sure of a Clinton victory that they would have given you the deed to their houses if she lost, seem to be grasping in the dark at times.

Yet for some reason, politics is the one arena of discourse every person in America is confident in discussing, which is why nobody really knows what he or she's talking about. People spend most of their time trying to swim in the inches of knowledge they have rather than trying to acquire depth and width to turn the inches into feet.

I say all of that for this reason: I think we need to approach politics with more piety. In that regard, I agree with Lauren Ingraham, the Fox News journalist who, 11 days ago, called out three-time NBA champion and three-time NBA MVP LeBron James for being public with his political opinions.

James gave an interview where he was critical of the apparent apathy President Trump has for the American people. Ingraham rebuked James for running his mouth and for thinking he is entitled to share his opinions just because of his social status. “Shut up, and dribble,” Ingraham said, which I interpret to mean: Be humble. Don't forget that you are just a basketball player, not a Renaissance man.

James, of course, fought back, saying in a later interview, “We will definitely not shut up and dribble ... I mean too much to society, too much to the youth, too much to so many kids who feel like they don't have a way out.”

Ingraham, though she was cruel and overly personal in her critiques, has a point. Celebrities have an elevated status in our culture; their being a celebrity somehow justifies to us that their opinions on things are better than our plumber's or our friend's, which does not make



**Scott Stinson**  
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much sense when you think about it.

Companies picked up on this long ago; this is why they created the phenomenon of the celebrity endorsement, whereby a famous person publicly shares their stamp of approval for a certain product. But why does a bar of soap become a must-have when Jennifer An-

iston says she uses it? Likewise, why do we ascribe special value to the opinions of famous people?

People should not let the opinions of famous people shape their worldviews any more than their classmates. James was critical of Trump and his relationship with the public; I think his critique is mostly fair, but that is not the point. The point is that the truth of a statement is not determined by the mouth it came from. Everything James says and believes should not be blindly assumed by everyone else. He's no different than the rest of us.

And yet, James is different than us. He's LeBron James. Like it or not, that name has a symbolic and economic significance that my name and yours does not. The world would mourn if James died; not so with you and I. His opinions carry heavier burdens than ours, for the simple reason that people care more about him as a person than they do about us.

James, and other celebrities, should be able to express beliefs; they have audiences that feed off of their existence, which they would be crazy not to take advantage of. But a belief or argument or anything really should not mean more just because a famous person said it. Our country ends when people cite celebrities as plausible justifications for their beliefs or arguments.

Let's not forget: None of us knows what we are talking about anyway.

*Scott Stinson is a UF English junior. His column focuses on popular culture.*



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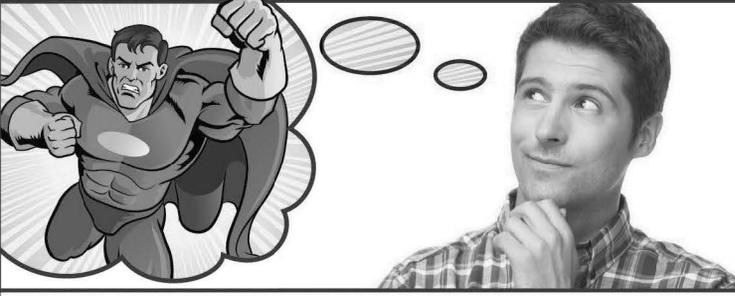
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## MUSIC

# Rising jam band Whale Feral to perform at Relix Magazine

By Taylor McLamb  
Avenue Writer

For an avid music fan, picking apart a song from Gainesville's rising southern jam band, Whale Feral, is a delightfully unique experience. Listeners can press play on a song dozens of times and still hear things that were unnoticed the first time around.

The band, which consists of Ricky Cagno (guitar and vocals), Will Bethea (bass and vocals), David Havens (drums) and Matt Urban (lead guitar and vocals), has mastered the ability to blend a variety of genres that, when played together, create an irreplaceable, electrifying sound that shines through any speaker.

"We describe our sound as southern fusion because our sound is influenced by multiple genres," Urban said. "A big part of our sound is the responsive stream of consciousness that we have while playing; it allows us to have complete musical freedom and gives us the ability to improvise while maintaining the collective groove."

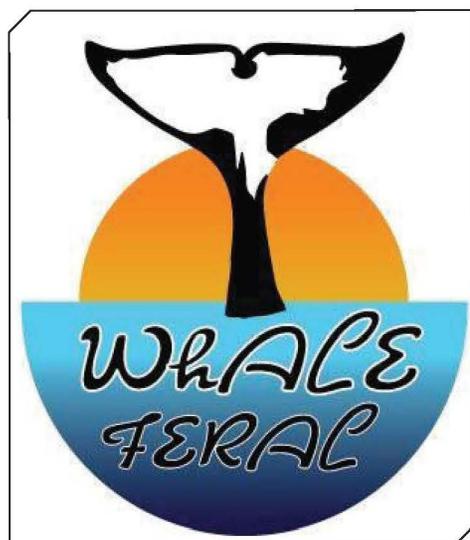
Playing music is a collaborative experience, and for all members to orchestrate this fusion of rock, the relationship between band members needs to reflect that same unified bond between genres in their music. Thankfully, Whale Feral goes way back.

Two of the band members, Cagno and Urban, would play music together while going to high school in Tampa. Cagno ultimately moved to Gainesville and later convinced Urban to move out with him. Bethea, who was Cagno's roommate at the time, used to play the sax but quickly learned bass to join in on Cagno and Ur-



Courtesy to The Alligator

Although they only got their start in December 2016, Whale Feral has risen quickly in the local Gainesville music scene.



Courtesy to The Alligator

Whale Feral will hit Washington, D.C., on their travels up to New York.

ban's routine jam sessions. It wasn't until Havens was introduced by a mutual friend that the band was finally born.

While only having officially formed in December 2016, Whale Feral has quickly developed a devoted fan base, becoming a noticeable force in Gainesville's bustling music scene.

"Gainesville is a really cool town because of how much it celebrates creativity," Cagno said. "This place is full of artists of all kinds. Videographers, photographers, audio engineers, writers, musicians and concertgoers have, together, created this community that is bound to keep churning out great stuff."

On the band's Bandcamp profile, listeners can enjoy a live recording from High Dive of some of Whale Feral's most popular songs, like "Alligator" and "Tommy's Song," from the comfort of their homes. It's here that fans can get a taste of their indistinguishable blend of rock, jazz and reggae.

Relix Magazine, the second longest running music magazine in the United States

after Rolling Stone, was attracted to Whale Feral after discovering their 5-track live album on the band's Bandcamp site.

The publication then invited the band to perform at their studio in New York City on March 6 after selecting them as one of their up-and-coming artists.

"Relix is the magazine for the jam band community, and just the fact that they noticed our music on Bandcamp was huge. Add in that they offered to let us come play for them in New York as well as be in the magazine; it's almost too much," Urban said.

The band said they have a couple songs in mind of what they want to play at Relix, but they won't be entirely sure until they're in the room.

Whale Feral also announced they'll be starting a tour March 2 while they travel up to New York for the performance. In addition to their Relix Magazine show, they'll hit Washington, D.C., on March 4.

It's hard enough for a musician to battle the stress of a life-changing show, but members Bethea and Havens, who are

currently UF students, have to put just as much time in with the books as with the instruments.

"Organizing our school load prior to the road and the use of downtime allow us to keep our head above water with our workload overall," said Bethea.

The band strategically plans shows so they don't conflict with exam schedules. With a concert like the Relix show, it was important to take advantage of the upcoming Spring Break. This is a perfect example of how when band members respect and look after one another, the music reflects that same intimacy.

As for now, the future of Whale Feral is limitless.

After the Relix concert, the band said they hope to grow as people, expand their horizons and start taking their music across the country, hopefully going to Europe as part of their dream tour.

While no one knows for sure what the future holds, there is one thing for certain: We're going to be hearing a lot more from Whale Feral.



Keep up with the Avenue on Twitter. Tweet us @TheFloridaAve.

### Riff Raff:

A Q&A with the rapper before his High Dive show (pg. 9)

### Behind the business:

Learn more about local favorite Cilantro Tacos (pg. 10)

MUSIC

# Q&A: Rapper Riff Raff to perform tonight at High Dive

## The outspoken performer talks music, fashion and dogs



Courtesy to The Alligator

Known for a unique look and outspoken personality, Riff Raff will hit Gainesville tonight.

**By Emma Witmer**  
Avenue Writer

Houston-born rapper Riff Raff will perform at High Dive tonight as part of his Neon Black Tour.

Doors for the show open at 8 p.m. with various openers kicking things off at 8:25 p.m. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$21 at the door, with tickets available at Ticketfly.com, Hear Again Records, High Dive box office and High Tides.

Riff Raff has been a huge personality in the rap game since he gained popularity with audiences on MTV's "G's to Gents" in 2009. From rap to comedy to fashion, the passionate dog lover captivates audiences with his excitement and unpredictability.

In an email interview, Riff Raff revealed a bit about his inspiration, music, personal passions and powerful sense of self. Read below for more:

**Q:** Throughout your career, you've worked with artists across the board. Who has been the most inspirational collaborator for you?

**Riff Raff:** "Myself. I inspire myself to be great, and I try to make everyone around me great."

**Q:** Tell me about your 2018 release album, "Cool Blue Jewels." Where did your inspiration come from for the album?

**Riff Raff:** "That's DJ Afterthought's debut hip-hop album. I contributed about 70 percent of it and tried to help push him to his potential."

**Q:** What kind of reactions have

you been getting from the new release?

**Riff Raff:** "They all have been spectacular across the board."

**Q:** What kind of energy are you bringing to Wednesday's show?

**Riff Raff:** "All the energy of 1,000,000 mushing huskies along with G fuel and Four Loko for good measure."

**Q:** I know that you pride yourself on style and presentation. When did you start to get inspired by fashion?

**Riff Raff:** "As long as I can remember I've been into fashion. I would start matching my own trends. I am a fashion icon."

**Q:** Now I know you're a big dog person, especially when it comes to your baby huskies. Where does your passion for animals come from?

**Riff Raff:** "I have always loved animals. They are so much better than (sic) humans, so pure and innocent."

**Q:** What do you think is the biggest misconception about who you are as a person and as an artist?

**Riff Raff:** "I am much more than (sic) meets the eye. I could care less about how people perceive me."

**Q:** You've said that you might like to venture into comedy one day; is that something you still see yourself doing in the future?

**Riff Raff:** "Of course, I have three TV shows coming out that are all comedy-based."

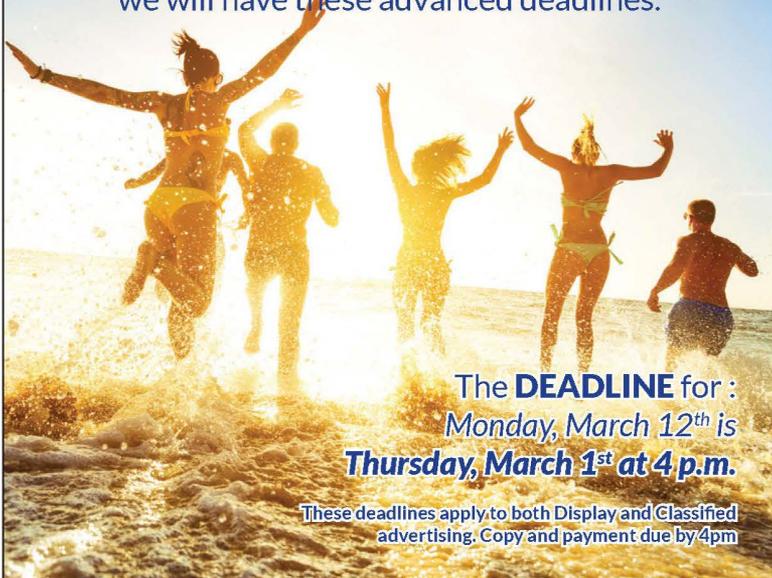
**Q:** All in all, what's coming up for you?

**Riff Raff:** "Success."

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# Cilantro Tacos: The family behind the food truck



Courtesy to The Alligator

Cilantro Tacos has become a Gainesville staple over the years, making appearances at breweries, events, food truck rallies and more.

By Gabriella Paul

Avenue Writer

It was 8 a.m., but his jaw was already peppered with a black-and-grey five o'clock shadow.

The 42-year-old works long days Tuesday through Saturday managing two food trucks for Cilantro Tacos, a local restaurant started by his sister, Sydney Meth, and her husband, Nareth Meth.

But Sen Khiev hasn't always been carefree on the back of a trailer braising carnitas and seasoning tacos.

In fact, two and a half years ago, Khiev left his chiropractic business in Cypress, California, in order to join the new family restaurant at 25740 W. Newberry Road.

"I knew something was here," he said after visiting his family and seeing Cilantro in action. "I really saw the love, I guess, in the feedback from customers."

So much so that six months later he decided to move across the country with his wife, Dara, and his now 6-year-old daughter.

Khiev said Sydney, his sister, is the culinary mastermind behind the place while Nareth handles the busi-

ness side of things.

"Every one of our menu items she experiments, creates and tinkers with until she has the right recipe," Khiev said.

Meanwhile, Khiev's nephew, Nathan, helps run one of the two food trailers while his niece Natalie, a UF student, pitches in whenever she can.

However, Cilantro did not have a food trailer until Khiev arrived.

"The food truck is where I came in," he said.

Originally operating only as a restaurant location, Cilantro now also has two fully operational food trailers that have become a staple of Gainesville cuisine.

The trailers, 8-by-10-foot platforms with a flat-top griddle, attach to a truck and attend about nine events a week now, Khiev said, including Taco Tuesdays at Swamp Head Brewery, the downtown farmers market on Wednesdays and events at First Magnitude Brewing Company almost four times a month.

The food trailers have been great for business, Khiev said, but they have also had their fair share of bumps in the road.

One time, Khiev said, while riding

down Newberry Road about a year ago, the Cilantro food trailer actually unhooked from the back of the truck.

His black fitted tee rippled as he smiled and shook his head side-to-side, reminiscing on past food truck fiascos.

"Mine's a food trailer, so I have to attach it to a truck. And I didn't secure the hitch properly," he said.

But even with the day-to-day surprises, Khiev said, serving customers an amazing taco at the end of the day makes it all worth it.

He said one of his favorite things is hearing feedback from first-time Cilantro customers.

One lady, a world traveler, tried the tacos for the first time at a Jonesville farm wedding catered by Cilantro, he said. She said it was some of the best food she had ever tried from around the world.

"We hear a lot 'Oh, those are the best tacos I've ever had in my life,' and they're like 60 years old," Khiev said. "We never know if it's that person's first time or experience with us."

It's those moments, he said, that motivate everyone at Cilantro to keep putting their best taco forward.

## MUSIC

# Avenue's must-see artists at Okeechobee Music Festival

By Natalie Rao

Avenue Editor

Tomorrow kicks off Okeechobee Music and Arts Festival's third consecutive year. Bringing some of the most vibrant artists the globe has to offer to the 800-acre Sunshine Grove in Okeechobee, Florida, this festival has absolutely exploded.

Falling conveniently during UF's Spring Break, many students will make the trek south in the next few days for music, art, food, interactive activities and a weekend they'll never forget. Here's some of the artists we'll be front and center for.

### PoWow! with Snoop Dogg, The Roots and many more

The collaborative PoWow! has become a fan favorite at Okeechobee. Each year features a powerhouse group of performers who come together to perform songs falling in the hip-hop, soul and funk genres. This year's PoWow! is hosted by none other than Snoop Dogg, one of the most influential personalities in hip-hop from the 1990s all the way to 2018. He will be joined by The Roots, Chaka Khan, Joey Bada\$\$, Dominic Lalli of Big Gigantic, Trombone Shorty and Cory Henry.

In addition to an impressive lineup, the PoWow! is worth checking out for the vibe alone. Fans of all types of music take a break from pulsing sets to relax under neon lights and hazy skies, enjoying a laid-back yet fun atmosphere where no one takes themselves too seriously. Anything can happen at the PoWow!, from surprise performers to unexpected covers, making this gathering a must-see.

### Bassnectar

At this point, dubstep savant and overall experimental producer Bassnectar is an Okeechobee veteran, making appearances every year since the festival started in 2016. This year will be a special step forward for the artist's relationship with Okeechobee, as he's the only name on the bill with two official sets: a

full moon party on Thursday and a set on one of the mainstages on Saturday.

Never one to do the same thing twice, Bassnectar is guaranteed to put forth two sets with distinctly unique personalities. On Tuesday, the artist shared via Facebook that the full moon party will have "no stage, no lights, no video — just a gathering by the beach under the moonlight, with warm downtempo sound drawing you in." And with an ambient, laid-back sound planned for Thursday, it's fitting to guess that Saturday's set will be the characteristically explosive Bassnectar set fans know and love.

For Bassnectar's most recent ambient release check out "Enchanted," the artist's latest mystical release under side project "Naux Faux" with Sayr.

### Quinn XCII

With an intoxicating sound that draws from genres like reggae, pop, electronic and many more, Quinn XCII will bring an energy to the Okeechobee stage unlike any of his fellow performers. Jampacking each release with smooth guitar plucks, breezy electronic elements, bouncy percussion and, of course, his unmistakable voice, this rising performer boasts a wide range of tracks that each hold a distinct personality.

For Quinn XCII's most recent album that he's sure to play from this weekend, check out "The Story of Us."

### Hippo Campus

As the only group on this list with a set that falls during the afternoon, Hippo Campus is worth the daytime trek to the stages. Composed of four young, vibrant indie rockers, this chilled out group cultivates a bouncy sound that will undoubtedly keep you both smiling and moving throughout the entirety of their set. Plus, the passion these four have for their craft shines through especially strong during live performances, making for an even more immersive experience.

For an idea of what to expect, check out their 2017 album "Landmark."



Photo via Instagram

Bassnectar is one of many bass-driven artists performing at Okeechobee this year. The headliner is the only artist on the lineup with two official sets.

# Classifieds

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## 6 Furnishings

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## 9 Bicycles

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4-25-18-43-10

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**To make a donation by mail,** please send checks payable to St. Francis House P.O. Box 12491 Gainesville, FL 32604  
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M-F, 8am - 4pm

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By Fax: (352) 376-4556  
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- |                         |               |                        |                    |                  |
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[pr@uncoastna.org](mailto:pr@uncoastna.org)

**18 Personals**

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								2nd Letter Triple	
A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>			<b>RACK 1</b>
A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	G <sub>2</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>			<b>RACK 2</b>
A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>			<b>RACK 3</b>
I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>		Double Word Score	<b>RACK 4</b>

**PAR SCORE 150-160**      **FOUR RACK TOTAL**  
**BEST SCORE 215**      **TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN**

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

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02-28

**MOST WANTED**



**Davina Cutchall**  
White Female  
DOB 3/31/1974  
5'10", 200 lbs  
Blonde Hair  
Hazel Eyes

**Wanted for:**  
**Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon**

**ALACHUA COUNTY**  
**CRIME STOPPERS**  
Call (352) 372-STOP

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez



- LITERATURE: What American poet wrote the line, "My candle burns at both ends; it will not last the night"?
- MATH: The Roman numerals MCDXIV are equal to what Arabic number?
- MONEY: Which U.S. president's image appears on the \$50 bill?
- MEASUREMENTS: What does a "candela" measure?
- MOVIES: What was the original name of Disney's Mickey Mouse?
- HISTORY: What war is the Battle of Leipzig associated with?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the birthstone associated with March?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the most populous city in the world?
- NOBEL PRIZES: Who was the first American to win a Nobel Prize?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had a yacht titled the "Honey Fitz"?

**Answers**

- Edna St. Vincent Millay
- 1,414
- Ulysses Grant
- Luminous intensity
- Mortimer Mouse
- The Napoleonic Wars
- Aquamarine
- Shanghai
- Theodore Roosevelt (Peace)
- John Kennedy

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A Y W S E S N E C I L U N S K  
Q P N L J S A I E E S R H F E  
C A Y X E P L C W D O D V U S  
Q P N L M O K E R T S J N H F  
E C T L P R J A T B Z Y X O V  
U I T I S T C A R T N O C R B  
T Q P W O S E L B A U L A V M  
L K I H S D N O M A I D G E D

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Bonds	Deeds	Licenses	Titles
Cash	Diamonds	Passports	Valuables
Coins	Jewelry	Policies	Will
Contracts	Keys	SS cards	

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## AGENT DOUBLE ZERO



Emma Green / Alligator Staff

### Delicia Washington's journey to UF and her tough decision over whether to stay

By **Justin Ahlum**  
Sports Writer

Tara Washington glanced down at her phone as it started to buzz.

It was an incoming call from her daughter, Delicia Washington, a freshman at the University of Florida.

"Momma?"

A trembling voice was on the other side of the phone. Her mother could hear the tears and distress in her daughter's voice.

"What's going on?" Tara asked.

Amanda Butler, UF's women's basketball coach for the past 10 years, had just been dismissed by Gators athletic director Scott Stricklin following another lackluster season for the Gators.

Delicia, the team's starting shooting guard, was devastated.

She was in her hometown of Macclenny, Florida, on March 6, 2017, visiting her alma mater Baker County High School when she heard the news. She immediately called her mother, trying to hold back sobs as the reality kicked in that the coach she and her family adored was leaving the program for good.

"I came here because of Butler," Delicia said. "I came here for the coaching staff, not because it's the University of Florida."

Delicia, who'd developed a deep connection with Butler from the moment she'd been offered a scholarship by the coach during her sophomore year of high school, was suddenly

in limbo. She didn't know if she wanted to stick around in Gainesville or explore her options elsewhere.

"The first two, three, maybe four months (after Butler was fired), I was still emotional," she said. "I wasn't sure if I wanted to be here anymore."

Now, just under a year after Butler's firing, Delicia and her teammates are preparing to try and snake their way through the gauntlet that is the SEC Tournament. The Gators face Ole Miss today at 2:25 p.m. in Nashville, Tennessee, for the bracket's first round.

But about 365 days ago, Delicia didn't know if she would be a part of Florida's 2017-18 campaign. With Butler gone, what was she supposed to do?

What were her plans?

Back then, she didn't know.

She'd come to UF for a specific reason. But now, that reason was gone.

So what was keeping Delicia here?

• • •

Before Delicia wore the Gators' orange and blue for the first time, she grew up in Macclenny, just an hour away from where she'd eventually begin her college basketball career.

She began playing the sport when she was 7, competing against her cousins at local parks before joining her middle school's team in sixth grade.

However, Delicia never hit the AAU circuit. She didn't play travel ball and go on constant

trips on the road for tournaments. Her game developed in the neighborhood and at local basketball courts, often under her own guidance.

By the time she was a senior at Baker County, she was ranked as the No. 22 guard in the country, according to espnW. Pressure came with that national spotlight.

"Every team we played, everybody wanted to try to get better than me," she said. "I just felt like it was a little bit tougher for me because I had a lot more competition coming my way."

In addition to lighting it up on the hardwood, Delicia excelled on the diamond at Baker County. When she wasn't averaging more than 25 points per game in the gym, Delicia was providing a spark on the school's softball fields.

Delicia was a force in the batter's box, hitting over .350 and blasting nine home runs in only 29 games during her senior season, according to MaxPreps. That year, led by the efforts of Delicia, Baker County made it to the semifinals of the state championship where it fell to Bayshore High School 5-1.

Delicia and her family also took frequent trips to Gainesville to watch Gators softball games.

However, it was the sport of basketball that led to Delicia's eventual commitment to UF.

• • •

Delicia received her first call from Butler and Florida's coaching staff during the latter



Butler

part of her sophomore year at Baker County.

Butler, who'd just led the Gators to their third victory in an NCAA Tournament game over the past decade, was trying to navigate the program into the national spotlight as a legitimate championship contender.

Tara first met Butler at one of Delicia's high school basketball games, where the relationship with her family began to bloom.

The then-Gators coach told Tara she'd been scouting Delicia for a while and was excited about the idea of bringing her to Gainesville.

"I loved Butler," Tara said. "(Her hospital-

SEE **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**, PAGE 16

#### — GATORS VS. REBELS —

**Who:** Florida women's basketball team (11-18, 3-9 SEC) vs. Ole Miss women's basketball team (11-18, 1-15 SEC)

**What:** SEC Women's Basketball Tournament (First Round)

**Where:** Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee

**When:** Today at 2:25 p.m.

**TV:** SEC Network



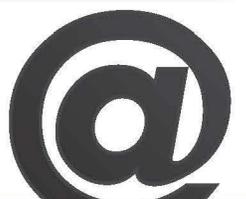
Coach **Amanda O'Leary** and the rest of Florida's lacrosse team is facing Jacksonville tonight at 7 at Disney Stadium.

#### Pro Sports Roundup: LeBron hits career milestone

Cleveland Cavaliers forward **LeBron James** became the first player in NBA history on Tuesday to amass 30,000 points, 8,000 rebounds and 8,000 assists following the Cavaliers 129-123 win over Brooklyn. James accomplished the feat in 1,121 games. He finished the night with 31 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists.

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Gators spoil Crimson Tide's Senior Night with 21-point beatdown

By Benjamin Brandt  
Sports Writer

Shoot. Miss. Repeat.

The Alabama men's basketball team carried out this fruitless offensive pattern 19 consecutive times in the first half of a matchup against Florida on Tuesday. The drought helped the Gators power their way to a 19-point advantage going into halftime.

They never looked back.

In a rematch of its 18-point loss to Alabama on Feb. 3, Florida routed the Crimson Tide 73-52 in Tuscaloosa's Coleman Coliseum.

Guard Jalen Hudson made easy work of Alabama's defense and piloted Florida to its revenge. He ended the night with a game-high 27 points on 9-of-13 shooting.

"Just trying to be aggressive," Hudson said. "We were just trying to finish the season out strong."

Despite a low-scoring performance where he posted only four points, guard Chris Chiozza earned himself a share of Florida history after a fast-break pass led to his 547th career assist, tying the record set by point guard Erving Walker from 2009 to 2012.

To open the action, Alabama (17-13, 8-9 SEC) sparked its home crowd with a quick 7-2 lead. The next 2:26 featured zero made field goals from either team. Florida broke the drought with a 10-0 run fueled by two contested three-pointers from Hudson.

By the 10:27 mark of the first half, Hudson had already scored 10 of the Gators' 16 points. UF (19-11, 10-7 SEC) shut down the Crimson Tide's offense throughout the opening period. It didn't allow a field goal over a near 15-minute stretch in which Ala-

bama shot 0-of-19 and turned the ball over eight times.

Forward Baxton Key ended the scoring slump with a layup to bring the Crimson Tide within 10 points. It trailed the Gators 25-15 with just over four minutes to play before halftime.

Key's bucket didn't change much in terms of Alabama's offensive production. It ended the half shooting an abysmal 4 of 30 from the field as Florida held onto a 37-18 lead going into the second half of action.

The Gators' dominance never ceased. With over 15 minutes remaining in the game, a step-back three pointer from guard KeVaughn Allen gave Florida a 50-28 advantage.

Alabama didn't break within 20 points again until just before the one-minute mark, at which UF walk-ons

Andrew Fava and Mak Krause were on the floor to end the game.

The Crimson Tide was led by guard Collin Sexton's 14-point performance. Key was the only other Alabama player to reach double-digit figures in scoring. The team ended the night shooting just 30 percent.

With the victory, the Gators have won two straight and currently stand at third place in the SEC.

"It's a big win for us," Hudson said. "Everybody came. Everybody showed up."

A TV broadcast contributed to this article.

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Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

Guard Jalen Hudson scored 27 points on 9-of-13 shooting in Florida's 73-52 win over Alabama on Tuesday.

## BASEBALL

# Small ball and pitching powers UF past Ospreys

By Morgan McMullen  
Sports Writer

On a chilly Jacksonville evening, a nagging breeze danced across Dusty Rhodes Field at Harmon Stadium. The wind nudged fly balls around the outfield without favor.

The unrelenting forces of nature became evident for left fielder Austin Langworthy. In his first two

at-bats, he struck the ball well into deep left field, only to have both die just in front of the warning track for a pair of easy outs.

But if Mother Nature had an equal in stubbornness, it was Langworthy. Leading by a pair of runs in the top of the seventh, the lanky lefty roped a single to the same unforgiving left field that had denied him twice. Langworthy's savvy baserunning propelled him to third on a Brady Smith single, and he sped home on a Nick Horvath sacrifice fly to pad Florida's advantage to three.

Manufacturing runs proved to be the offensive theme for the Gators (8-1) in their 4-0 shutout of North Florida (3-5) Tuesday night. Of Florida's four runs on the evening, three resulted in outs being recorded on the play (groundout, sacrifice fly, fielder's choice).

After Langworthy led off the Gators' batting order the first eight games of the season, coach Kevin O'Sullivan moved the sophomore

— as well as a couple of other UF batters — around in the lineup. Langworthy's swap to the seven spot from his top position signaled a willingness from O'Sullivan to be more proactive about his hitters' dry spells.

Langworthy entered the game hitting just .133 on the season, well below his .238 mark from last year. Over the course of Florida's recent weekend series with Miami, he garnered just one hit in 12 at-bats after hitting safely in his previous three games.

The Gators' defensive calling card Tuesday night resided on the mound. Freshman Jordan Butler made his second career start and didn't disappoint. The southpaw bewildered Osprey batters through six scoreless innings with six strikeouts while allowing just one hit and no walks.

"Our pitching was just outstanding tonight," O'Sullivan said in a release.

Fellow freshman Jack Leftwich followed Butler with similar zeal from the rubber. Though he allowed the leadoff men to hit safely in the seventh and eighth innings, he bridged the gap to the ninth by forcing a double play and striking out a pair of batters. Closer Michael Byrne shut the door on any potential comeback with just one hit allowed in the ninth.

Florida's two-game series with the Ospreys wraps up tonight in Gainesville at 6.

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Langworthy

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# Delicia Washington won SEC Co-Freshman of the Year in 2017

## WOMEN'S-BBALL, from pg 14

ity) was awesome. She really welcomed us into Florida."

After Delicia's official recruiting visit, Butler invited the Washingtons over to her home for dinner that same night.

"We had spaghetti, salad, corn on the cob," Tara said. "They even had a cake for us. She really welcomed us in."

But the relationship that developed between Delicia and Butler was even greater.

The 5-foot-10 guard felt Butler was "the right coach" for her, and had no doubt in her mind that she wanted to play under her wing.

"I knew that if she ever gave me that of-

fer, I wasn't looking at anymore schools," she said. "When she gave me that offer, I just took it right then and there."

From the moment Delicia arrived on Florida's campus during the summer of 2016, she found instant success. After a strong showing during UF's offseason training program, she earned a spot in the starting lineup for Florida's season opener against South Alabama.

She scored eight points on 4-of-6 shooting and grabbed six rebounds in her first game as a Gator.

The debut was the start of one of the best seasons by a UF freshman in program history.

Delicia averaged 11.1 points per game, pulled down 5.1 rebounds per game and cracked the starting lineup in 30 of 31 total on contests in 2016-17.

In a loss to Indiana on Dec. 20, 2016, she became just the fifth freshman in UF history to score more

than 30 points in a single game. Delicia finished with 31 points on 11-of-22 shooting, grabbed seven rebounds and only turned the ball over twice in a game that saw Florida give away the rock 16 times.

Her success on the court led to an honor Florida had never seen a player receive before: the SEC Co-Freshman of the Year Award.

But her valiant efforts weren't enough.

By the end of the season, Florida was under .500 for the third time in Butler's tenure and didn't see any postsea-

son action following the SEC Tournament.

In Butler's time at UF, the Gators didn't win a single SEC Championship and failed to get past the second round in any of its four trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Stricklin — who'd just taken over for longtime athletic director Jeremy Foley less than five months prior — had seen enough. The results led to Butler's dismissal from the program, putting Florida on a hunt to find its next head coach.

For about three weeks, Delicia and her teammates didn't know who was going to take the reigns of the program.

"I was hungry to find out what coach was coming in," Delicia said. "I had to trust the process, that Scott Stricklin, he knew what he was doing, that he would bring the right coach in."

But what really hurt Delicia was the fact she wouldn't finish out her career with Butler as her head coach. The thought of leaving UF was a possibility.

Tara said Butler was in contention for a job at another Division I school. She even asked Delicia about going with her.

"She wanted to follow Butler," Tara said. "Once Butler didn't go into coaching, she just kept her mind focused on Florida."

The idea of letting her teammates down began to sink in as well. A team that just lost its coach would be even worse off if it lost one of its top returners.

"They knew they needed me to be here with them," Delicia said, "so I stuck through it."

Delicia also talked to her parents to help get through the following weeks after Butler's firing.

Tara remembers asking her daughter every other day if Stricklin had hired a new coach.

On March 27, Tara's question was answered.

Stricklin officially announced that Cameron Newbauer, a former assistant at Georgia and head coach at Belmont, was moving to Gainesville to become the Gators' 10th head coach in program history.

Tara remembers the call her daughter made to tell her Florida had hired Newbauer.

"I asked her how she felt about it," she said. "(Delicia) said she really missed Butler but she said 'I gotta do what I gotta do.'"

It took Delicia several months to get over the emotional pain of her former coach's firing. But the young guard has embraced the new staff.

During the offseason, the Washingtons had a family gathering where they met Newbauer along with assistant coach Kelly Rae Finley.

Newbauer, along with Finley and her fellow assistants Laura Harper and John McCray, have started to utilize Delicia as a lead playmaker for this Gators squad. Throughout the season, Newbauer has harped on her improvement and her growth in maturity.

Her teammates, including ones that played with Delicia during her freshman year, agree with their head coach.

"She's grown a lot in her maturity and also in her leadership. She has a huge role on our team," forward Haley Lorenzen said. "I think she's going to continue to improve and be a really great player, not to say she isn't really good already."

The growth in her game has shown this season.

While Delicia's field-goal percentage has slightly dipped from last year and she's scoring at a similar rate, her production in other areas has surged.

Delicia has been solid on the boards, collecting nearly nine rebounds per game, including 63 total on the offensive end.

She has also improved her passing ability. Delicia is averaging just under four assists per game and has more than doubled her total from last year.

"She has an incredible athletic ability, and now that she's using it even more, it's outstanding," guard Funda Nakkasoglu said. "That's been a major key this year for us."

And now, for the next two years, Florida seems to have a solidified starter in its backcourt.

"Last year, she came out, was playing great. This year, she's had to make adjustments," guard Dyandria Anderson said. "She's made those adjustments great. She's shooting the three great, bringing the ball up and being a point guard. She's just grown so much."

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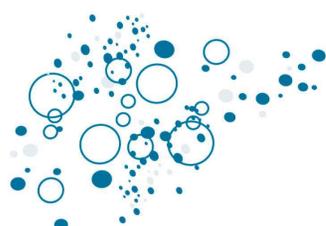
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