

alligator



VOLUME 112 ISSUE 65

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018

Not officially associated with the University of Florida

Published by Campus Communications, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida

FEATURE FRIDAY:

RedCoach incident raises questions of bus companies' protocols

A UF STUDENT WAS DROPPED OFF 40 MINUTES FROM HER STOP.

By Jessica Giles
Alligator Staff Writer

As Halle Berliant watched her bus creep farther away from the Tampa airport on her phone's map, the knot in her stomach tightened.

Berliant, a UF health science freshman, called her mom, Elizabeth Berliant, and said she was nervous.

"I'm sure they know what they're doing," her mom said.

As the bus traveled down Interstate 75, Halle Berliant realized the mistake and asked to be let off.

So the bus drivers dropped her off — at exit 229 in Palmetto, along the side of the road with her green suitcase, Berliant said. She looked around in the hopes of seeing a grocery store, gas station, any sign of civilization, but saw nothing.

"I was very scared," the 18-year-old said. "I didn't know where I was."

The incident raises questions about the practices of bus companies serving students. A variety of bus lines operate throughout Florida, with three of the most popular options being RedCoach, GMC Transport and Megabus — all of which boast their safety record but still have complaints.

RedCoach has several measures in place to ensure the safety of passengers and drivers, Daniel

SEE FEATURE, PAGE 8



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

CATCHING THE REDCOACH

Students and other passengers walk toward a RedCoach bus to begin boarding Thursday afternoon at the Commuter Lot as UF will begin its Spring Break this upcoming week.

Six UF students to climb five mountains during Spring Break

By Elliott Nasby
Alligator Staff Writer

Three days. Five mountains. Six pairs of burning thighs and toned calves.

This Spring Break, David DiMauro, a UF biology senior, will guide a group of five students up five of the 10 tallest mountains east of the Mississippi River to raise \$14,000 for a Gainesville-based philanthropy, the Climb For Cancer Foundation, which donates nearly all of its proceeds to cancer patients at UF Health. DiMauro hopes to raise the \$14,000 to participate in the non-profit's Mount Kilimanjaro

trip. The students on the Spring Break trip planned to raise \$1,000 but have collected \$1,200 in total.

DiMauro, 22, was going to complete the hike alone but opened the trip up to other participants when he saw other UF students were interested in a Facebook post he shared Feb. 15.

"It's like a wildfire," he said. "These people are getting excited for something that I'm excited about, and that's really cool."

Within a week, he had recruits: his brother Thomas, friends Sam Saffer, Grace Plass, Haley Surdyke and Delaney Sagul, who has gone on another trip DiMauro helped

lead.

The five peaks are Mounts Mitchell, Craig, Gibbes, Potato Hill and Balsam Cone, which are all on the same ridgeline of the Black Mountains in North Carolina. The trip from peak to peak is about 23 miles on foot. Each peak they reach will yield a view of the taller mountain next in line, DiMauro said.

"I was pretty nervous about doing it," said Plass, a 19-year-old UF mechanical engineering freshman. "It's definitely going to push us pretty much to our limits."

At the start of the trip, hikers can expect a steep incline at Deep Gap Trailhead, said Surdyke, a

good friend of DiMauro, who is helping guide on the trip.

"It's like doing stadiums for five hours straight," the 21-year-old UF nursing senior said.

Stadiums are actually one of closest ways to mimic the burn of a backpacking trip, she said.

Out in Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, the group of six stands out from the other athletes. For nearly an hour, the group bounces up and down the stadium steps in hefty waterproof hiking boots they'll wear during the trip. In addition, hikers filled their backpacks with jugs of water and textbooks — enough weight to set off the seat belt alarm

in Surdyke's car — to emulate the hike's intensity, she said.

Packing as light as possible with dehydrated food packets is necessary. They will still be hauling 25 to 50 pounds of gear each, including water, supplies and tents.

DiMauro said he has climbed Mount Mitchell and Craig before but never in early spring, when trails are still fresh with snow and temperatures dip easily below freezing after nightfall.

"It's rough," says Mount Mitchell State Park employee Shelby Longtrear. "You can get into some trouble if you're not as experi-

SEE MOUNTAIN, PAGE 8

HUDSON OVERCOMES HARDSHIPS

Jalen Hudson dealt with a divorce that split his family and a coach who didn't want him before eventually landing at UF, pg. 14



Dan Mullen will be the next Accent Speaker

He will not be paid to speak, pg. 4

A breakdown of campaign finance spending

A look at the money that went into the Student Government Spring election, pg. 5

FOLLOW US ONLINE FOR UPDATES



@FloridaAlligator @TheAlligator_ @TheAlligator

Today's Weather



AM



NOON



PM

HIGH 77° LOW 44°

Local Events / News in Brief

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Student Government Fair

Student Government's Spring Housing Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 16 on the Reitz Union North Lawn. This is a way to get familiar with off-campus living options.

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. Attorneys will meet with people who have been convicted of a felony and are interested in applying to have their civil rights restored. For more information, visit aclib.us/law.

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. To request publication in the next day's newspaper, please submit the event before 5 p.m. Please model your submissions after the above events, and keep them to 150 words or



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

fewer. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper.

Clarification

In story published Wednesday titled "GPD: UF student rapes friend after fraternity event," Thomas Peter Maletta was arrested and charged with raping a woman he'd known since high school.

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 65 ISSN 0889-2423

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

NEWSROOM

352-376-4458 • Fax: 352-376-4467

Editor Melissa Gomez, editor@alligator.org
Managing Editor, Online Caitlin Ostroff, costrhoff@alligator.org
Managing Editor, Print Jimena Tavel, jtavel@alligator.org
Beats Editor Meryl Kornfield, mkornfield@alligator.org
Freelance Editor Paige Fry, pfry@alligator.org
Investigations Editor Romy Ellenbogen, rellenbogen@alligator.org
Opinions Editor Abigail Miller, opinions@alligator.org
Sports Editor Dylan Dixon, sports@alligator.org
Assistant Sports Editor Jake Dreilinger, jdreilinger@alligator.org
alligatorSports.org Editor Morgan McMullen, mmcmullen@alligator.org
Editorial Board Abigail Miller, Melissa Gomez, Caitlin Ostroff, Jimena Tavel
Photo Editor Alan Alvarez, photo@alligator.org
the Avenue Editor Natalie Rao, avenue@alligator.org
Copy Desk Chiefs Nealy Kehres, Gabby Valenti, Dan Basalone
Copy Editors VictoriaGingras, AlexiaSchmidt, AlainHarb, Carly McCullough, Grace Kenny, Jill Chabot, Katie Marshall, Sabrina Conza

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

352-376-4482 • Fax: 352-376-4556

Advertising Director Shaun O'Connor, soconnor@alligator.org
Advertising Office Manager Cheryl del Rosario, cdelrosario@alligator.org
Intern Coordinator Nicole Renuart, intern@alligator.org
Sales Representatives Lucy Baez, Ryan Chase, Alaina DiGiacomo, Natalia Martinez Parra, Bismarie Plasencia, Ben Sherry, John Vianello

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

352-373-FIND • Fax: 352-376-3015

Classified Advertising Manager Ellen Light, elight@alligator.org

BUSINESS

352-376-4446 • Fax: 352-376-4556

Administrative Assistant Ellen Light, elight@alligator.org
Comptroller Delia Kradolfer, dkradolfer@alligator.org
Bookkeeper Cheryl del Rosario, cdelrosario@alligator.org

ADMINISTRATION

352-376-4446 • Fax: 352-376-4556

General Manager Patricia Carey, tcarey@alligator.org
Assistant General Manager Shaun O'Connor, soconnor@alligator.org
Administrative Assistant Lenora McGowan, lmcgowan@alligator.org
President Emeritus C.E. Barber, cebarber@alligator.org

SYSTEMS

IT System Engineer Kevin Hart

PRODUCTION

Production Manager Christina Cozart, ccoziert@alligator.org
Assistant Production Manager Robert Carroll, rcarroll@alligator.org
Advertising Production Staff Taylor Barker
Editorial Production Staff Jordan Bourne, Adam Turner

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

The Alligator offices are located at 2700 SW 13th St. Classified advertising can be placed at that location from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for holidays. © Copyright 2017. All rights reserved. No portion of The Alligator may be reproduced in any means without the written consent of an officer of Campus Communications Inc.

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



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

Student Member at Large

This position may be filled by a graduate or undergraduate student.

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.

Campus Communications, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

On Turlington Plaza, students rally in solidarity for Syria

By **Taylor Marks**
Alligator Staff Writer



Sophia Timm, a 21-year-old UF biology and anthropology senior, participates in a solidarity rally for Eastern Ghouta children along with Kelly Sutter, a 19-year-old UF psychology sophomore, and Afrah Ahmed, a 19-year-old UF health science senior.



A small group of students participate in a solidarity rally on Turlington Plaza on Thursday evening to raise awareness for the Karam Foundation's Emergency Aid Campaign for the Children of Eastern Ghouta.

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

the independent florida
alligator and @lligator.org

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.

Campus Communications, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

MEN'S BASKETBALL

SATURDAY, MAR. 3 @ 12 PM
vs. **KENTUCKY**

SENIOR DAY
JOIN US AS WE HONOR OUR GREAT GATORS IN THEIR LAST HOME GAME
PRESENTED BY: **GEICO**

SOLD OUT
EXACTECH ARENA @ O'CONNELL CENTER

#15 MEN'S TENNIS

FRIDAY, MAR. 2 @ 6 PM
vs. **GEORGIA**

SEAT CUSHION GIVEAWAY
THE FIRST 100 FANS WILL RECEIVE GATORS MEN'S TENNIS GRILL MASTER APRONS!

SUNDAY, MAR. 4 @ 1 PM
vs. **TENNESSEE**

FREE ADMISSION WITH A GATOR 1 ID
ALFRED A. RING TENNIS COMPLEX

#1 BASEBALL

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 7 @ 6 PM
vs. **UCF**

FREE ADMISSION WITH A GATOR 1 ID
ALFRED A. MCKETHAN STADIUM

WOMEN'S TENNIS

FRIDAY, MAR. 9 @ 5 PM vs. **LSU**
SUNDAY, MAR. 11 @ 1 PM
vs. **TEXAS A&M**

#2 SOFTBALL

#12 WOMEN'S GOLF

MAR. 9, 10 & 11
vs. **KENTUCKY**

SEC OPENER
JOIN THE GATORS AS THEY OPEN SEC PLAY AGAINST KENTUCKY!

SUN TRUST GATOR INVITATIONAL
MARCH 10-11

SUNTRUST

Police: Tallahassee man brings gun to class

A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WAS ARRESTED FOR TAKING A GUN TO SCHOOL THE SAME DAY.

By Robert Lewis
Alligator Staff Writer

A Tallahassee man was arrested and charged with bringing a loaded gun to Santa Fe College on Tuesday night on, Santa Fe College Police said.

Nicholas Robert Thompson, 30, had a loaded 9mm Taurus PT111 handgun tucked in his front waistband while he was attending a class in Building O on Santa Fe's northwest campus at about 6:30 p.m., according to an arrest report. Jay Anderson, Santa Fe's communication manager, said a student saw the gun and told the teacher who then called police.

"The system worked the way it should," Anderson said.

Thompson was arrested for having

the concealed gun on Santa Fe's campus, police said.

Thompson isn't a student at the school and was attending an Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety class taught at the college, Anderson said.

Anderson said Thompson told police he forgot he was carrying the gun when he went to the campus and had a concealed carry permit.

Thompson's arrest was the same day a junior at Eastside High School was arrested on charges related to his bringing a loaded revolver to school in his backpack, according to Alligator archives.

Thompson was arrested on a charge of carrying a firearm on a school campus and taken to the Alachua County Jail. He was released Wednesday night on a \$50,000 bond.

He could not be reached for comment.

@Lewis_Robert
rlewis@alligator.org

Dan Mullen to give Accent talk

By Christina Morales
Alligator Staff Writer

Zachary Roberts wants to know what Coach Dan Mullen has in mind for the future of Gator football.

The UF exploratory engineering sophomore will get an opportunity to ask the head football coach March 20 in the University Auditorium. The discussion is organized by Accent Speakers Bureau. The doors will open at 7 p.m., and the event will begin at 8 p.m.



Mullen

About 800 tickets will be available at the Accent office on the third floor of the Reitz Union beginning March 19, from noon to 5 p.m., Accent chair Shelby Buchanan wrote in an email. Students with a valid Gator 1 ID card receive two tickets.

Any remaining tickets will be distributed at the University Auditorium box office from noon until the start of the show.

Mullen will speak about his professional experience.

Mullen is not being paid to speak, and the estimated cost to host the event is under \$5,000, Buchanan said.

"We have received several requests for a sports-oriented show, and we feel this show will definitely satisfy that demand," Buchanan said. "We hope that this event can serve as introduction between Coach Mullen and the Student Body before next year's football season."

Buchanan said this event is a partnership between Accent and the University Athletic Association to allow for university sport officials to speak.

"While we love to bring speakers from all over the country and all walks of life, partnering with the UAA gives us the opportunity to showcase a little hometown pride," Buchanan

said. "We're excited to bring Dan due to his history of excellence in the sports world, and we hope that students in attendance feel a stronger connection to him after the program is over."

Roberts, 19, said he has been a fan of Mullen since he started as UF's offensive coordinator in 2005.

"He seems to just be happy to be here at the University of Florida and some coaches in the past have not seemed excited or happy to be here," he said.

Roberts said he's curious to know why Mullen chose to come back to UF after his coaching job at Mississippi State University.

"I would probably ask him what his goals are for the next year and five years for the football program," he said. "I want to know whether we are, as a program, reaching the goals that he sets out."

@Christina_M18
cmorales@alligator.org

Worship

guide

Quaker

Gainesville Quaker Meeting

Are you searching for a Spiritual Community? We are a community 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

Non-Denominational

University City Church of Christ

Gators for Christ campus ministry college group meets at University City Church on Sundays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Practical application from God's word, plus service projects, large group events, free meals and much more... (directions and events calendar at www.gatorsforchrist.org) For rides, please call: 352-514-8261

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

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. Get Involved! www.catholicgators.org

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

Unitarian

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville

a liberal religion that embraces different religious beliefs with justice and compassion! Sunday at 11 am 4225 NW 34th St. 352-377-1669 uufg.org

Jewish

Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Student Center

Your home away from home Friday Night Live! Services & Shabbat Dinner: 7:30 p.m. Spring/Fall, 8:30 p.m. Summer 352-336-5877 2021 NW 5th Ave (5 blocks north of the stadium) www.JewishGator.com

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.

Episcopal

Chapel of the Incarnation

The EpiscoGators Welcome You! Sunday Worship: 5:30 p.m. followed by a free home cooked meal for students. 1522 W. University Ave. Across from Library West

Metaphysical

The Seraphim Center

A Spiritual Center Serving the Light in all traditions Sunday Service 11am

Spiritual Classes and Discussions through the week 1409 NW 6th St #110 3527928075

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!

Contact Alligator Advertising **352.376.4482**

GPD: Gainesville man shoots, injures father and his baby

By Meryl Kornfield
Alligator Staff Writer



Wilson

A Gainesville man was arrested and charged with shooting and injuring an infant and the infant's father Tuesday night, Gainesville Police said.

Darrell J. Wilson, 26, was to babysit the 1-year-old child at his East Gainesville home, and the mother and father were dropping off the infant at about 10 p.m., GPD spokesperson Officer Ben Tobias said. Wilson became

offended when the father, Torrance Lee, was kissing and hugging the child in his car, and Wilson grabbed the infant out of the father's hands, according to a press release.

The father got out of his car and asked what was wrong, and the mother moved her child from Wilson's hands to the father's, Tobias said. Wilson, who keeps a gun on him at

all times, pulled out the handgun and shot twice, hitting the father in the abdomen and the child in the face, Tobias said.

"I cannot believe, I can't understand, can't fathom why someone would look anywhere toward the direction of a child, an infant, a baby and make the decision to pull the trigger," Tobias said.

Both were taken to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Police found the gun in Wilson's home, and he was arrested on a charge of attempted murder, Tobias

said.

Wilson told police he shot the father because he had a mean look on his face, Tobias said.

The Florida Department of Children and Families will run a parallel investigation with police.

Wilson was taken to the Alachua County Jail where he remains in lieu of a \$500,000 bond.

@merylkornfield
mkornfield@alligator.org

Rep. Chuck Clemons faces lawsuit for Twitter block

By Jessica Giles
Alligator Staff Writer

A Gainesville resident filed a lawsuit against Rep. Chuck Clemons, R-Newberry, on Monday for blocking him on Twitter.



Clemons

Peter Morgan Attwood, 45, tweeted at Clemons on Feb. 20 asking why he voted against HB 219, a bill that would allow the Florida House to discuss a possible ban on assault weapons. The next day, Attwood discovered Clemons had blocked him on Twitter and later Facebook, Attwood said. Now, Attwood's attorney is asking the courts to declare Clemons' actions as viewpoint exclusion from a public forum and a violation of the First Amendment.

"He doesn't have a right to do that if he's operating his Twitter and his Facebook as a representative of the people,"

Attwood said.

Clemons represents District 21, which includes part of Alachua County and Gilchrist and Dixie Counties.

Attwood retweeted a tweet by Emma Gonzalez, a survivor of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School shooting, about the House vote and added a personal message for Clemons.

"Hello @ChuckClemons21 I'm a constituent. Please explain this vote please. Thank you," the tweet reads.

The next day he was blocked, Attwood said.

Clemons didn't respond to requests for comment but posted his thoughts about the lawsuit on social media Monday.

"This lawsuit is frivolous and a waste of taxpayer time and money," he wrote in a Facebook post. "Any legislator, or any citizen, has the right to decide who they will or won't allow to interact with them online."

@jessica_giles_
jgiles@alligator.org

UF Law school sees applicant increase after 2016 election

By Heaven Wilson
Alligator Contributing Writer

Levin College of Law saw applications double from 2015 to 2016, and a national study said this is due to the presidential election.

Kaplan Test Prep, a student testing service, conducted a nationwide survey in December 2017 and February that went out to more than 500 students applying to law school. It found that 32 percent said the election impacted their decision to apply, said Jeff Thomas, an executive director of pre-law programs at Kaplan.

He said there was speculation about why this number increased in the past year because in the five years prior, there was a decline in LSAT test takers. Consequently,

Kaplan decided to survey students who have went through their preparation services about why they applied to law school.

"If the passion is there, it's a great time to apply to law school," Thomas said.

Elizabeth Lear, the associate dean for strategic initiatives at Levin College of Law, said she noticed a massive increase in the law school applications since the election.

Lear said since the election, the school saw an increase of more than 1,000 applications. She said 1,359 students applied in 2015 and 2,703 applied in 2016. The number stayed around the same in 2017 at 2,875 applications.

"Applications have gone up in the last two years," Lear said. "I have seen pas-

sion among our students since the election."

Marina Bahmad, a 20-year-old UF telecommunication junior, said she had thoughts of applying to law school before the election. But when President Donald Trump won and implemented his restrictive immigration policies, it reaffirmed her decision to apply.

Bahmad said she was born and raised in Brazil. She moved to the U.S. when she was 11 years old and didn't become a citizen until February. She wants to be able to help other immigrants by going to law school and study immigration law.

"Immigration is a soft spot for me," Bahmad said. "There are people that need help who don't have the money, especially if you are an immigrant."

Impact, Inspire spent more on election than Challenge

By Christina Morales
Alligator Staff Writer

Campaign finance reports indicate Impact Party spent about nine times more and Inspire Party spent about seven times more than their competitor, Challenge Party, in the recent Student Government election.

Impact raised \$10,325 in donations, including \$1,300 from President-elect Ian Green, \$1,100 from Vice President-elect David Enriquez and \$1,200 from Treasurer-elect Stefan Sanguyo. The party spent a total \$9,963.91.

Jackie Phillips, the co-campaign manager of Impact, wrote in an email the party requires its executive candidates to donate.

"While money doesn't win a campaign, it is necessary to run a large campaign," she said. "Ian, David and Stefan worked to raise money from family and friends who supported and believed in them to donate to the campaign. Money doesn't represent dedication but just like they put their all into every other aspect of the campaign, they chose to help finance it as well."

Impact spent \$576.20 more in this campaign than in Spring 2017 but also raised \$3,769.11 more in donations this year, according to Alligator archives.

Inspire raised \$7,250.80 in donations, with \$3,590 coming from Matt Hoeck, who was one of the founders of Access Party in 2015.

"There weren't any strings attached," said Casey Witte, Inspire's treasurer. "Rather, he

just wanted to see another independent voice on campus."

Of Inspire's executive ticket, president candidate Revel Lubin donated \$300, vice president candidate Bijal Desai donated \$500 and treasurer candidate Alyssa Bethencourt donated \$5. Witte said they don't require candidates to donate to the campaign.

The party also spent \$6,627.83 this campaign season, leaving them with \$622.97 remaining.

Witte said the party intended to use the money to continue campaigning if there was a runoff election, but it will now use it for the Fall campaigning season.

If the party had more money, it could've been a factor in winning the election, Witte said.

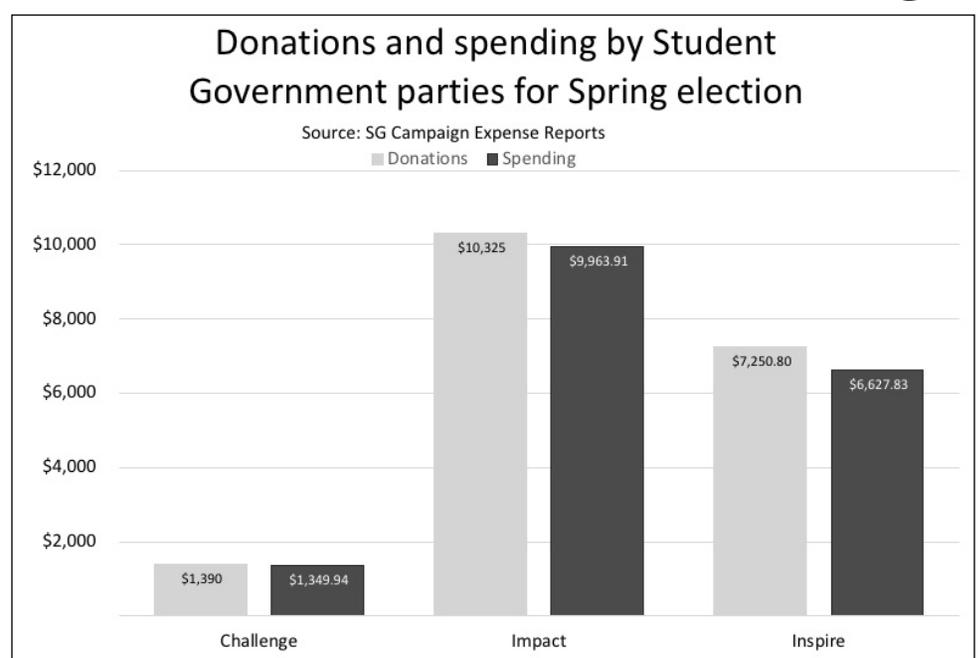
"At the end of the day, as unfortunate as it is, money does fuel politics," he said.

Impact and Inspire fed their volunteers Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and pizza. Inspire spent \$197.34 for pizza and \$133.62 on doughnuts, and Impact spent \$212.98 on pizza and \$85.46 on doughnuts.

The three parties also spend money to boost Facebook posts. Impact spent \$11.16, Inspire spent \$788.51 and Challenge spent \$40.

Challenge raised only \$1,390 in donations and spent \$1,349.94 in the campaign. The party's executive candidates Janae Moodie donated \$440, Chase Werther donated \$430 and Shayli Patel donated \$80.

Challenge President Anthony Rojas said he



Caitlin Ostroff / Alligator Staff

Student Government political party donations and spending for the Spring elections.

knew the party had a disadvantage in manpower and money in its campaign. Like Inspire, Challenge didn't require the executive candidates to donate.

"We hoped that money wasn't going to be the difference," he said. "We just wanted to do things that resonated with most students and

we just had to generate our own buzz organically. The reality is that money does play as a factor, but I wish it did less."

@Christina_M18
cmorales@alligator.org

Editorial

It's finally Spring Break. After spending the last two weeks cooped up in Library West, you come to find you've forgotten what it feels like to breathe in fresh air or to feel sunlight on your skin. Needless to say, you have been in desperate need of some rest and relaxation, far away from UF's campus.

You and your friends decided to take the classic college kid route this Spring Break. That's right, you booked a three-day cruise to Mexico. Passport in hand and already wearing your swimsuit underneath your clothes, you make your way onto the ship. All you want to do is throw your bags in your room and make a beeline to the pool, where you can sit leisurely and drink a margarita.

After you finally make it to the pool bar and retrieve your victorious, tequila-laden drink, you start walking around the pool deck to find an empty chair. A little too focused on your hunt, you accidentally bump into another cruiser and your margarita topples to the ground.

As you look down at the mess of what could have been your saving grace, you see the liquid has coagulated into an odd formation. In fact, it actually spells out a message ...

Darts & Laurels

Russian President Vladimir Putin made a speech Thursday with the clear intent of instilling fear in the minds of those in western nations like the U.S. In his State of the Nation address, the president boasted about the country's slew of new weapons, including an intercontinental nuclear cruise missile.

According to The New York Times, toward the end of his speech, Putin gave a shout-out to Europe and the U.S. He reportedly displayed the newly developed weapons on giant screens and said he was prepared to use them, along with traditional nuclear arms, if Russia were attacked.

His threats, whether they are based on merit or just another ploy to make the nation seem strong, are terrifying. As the world inches closer to the threat of nuclear war, we can only hope nations across the globe soon realize we need to forgo these methods of attack. To **Putin** and his attempts to get the world closer to total destruction, we award our first **dart**.

In our own country, however, we saw some positive movement when it came to weapons. Dick's Sporting Goods Inc. and Walmart Inc., two of the nation's leading gun sellers, announced this week they would no longer sell firearms to anyone under the age of 21, regardless of local laws. Dick's Sporting Goods even went as far as to say they will end sales of all assault-style rifles in its stores and would no longer sell high-capacity magazines.

As we wait for movement on a federal level, it is promising to see changes being made in the arena of gun sales. We award our first **laurel** to **Dick's** and **Walmart** for their sensible efforts to limit the dissemination of harmful weapons.

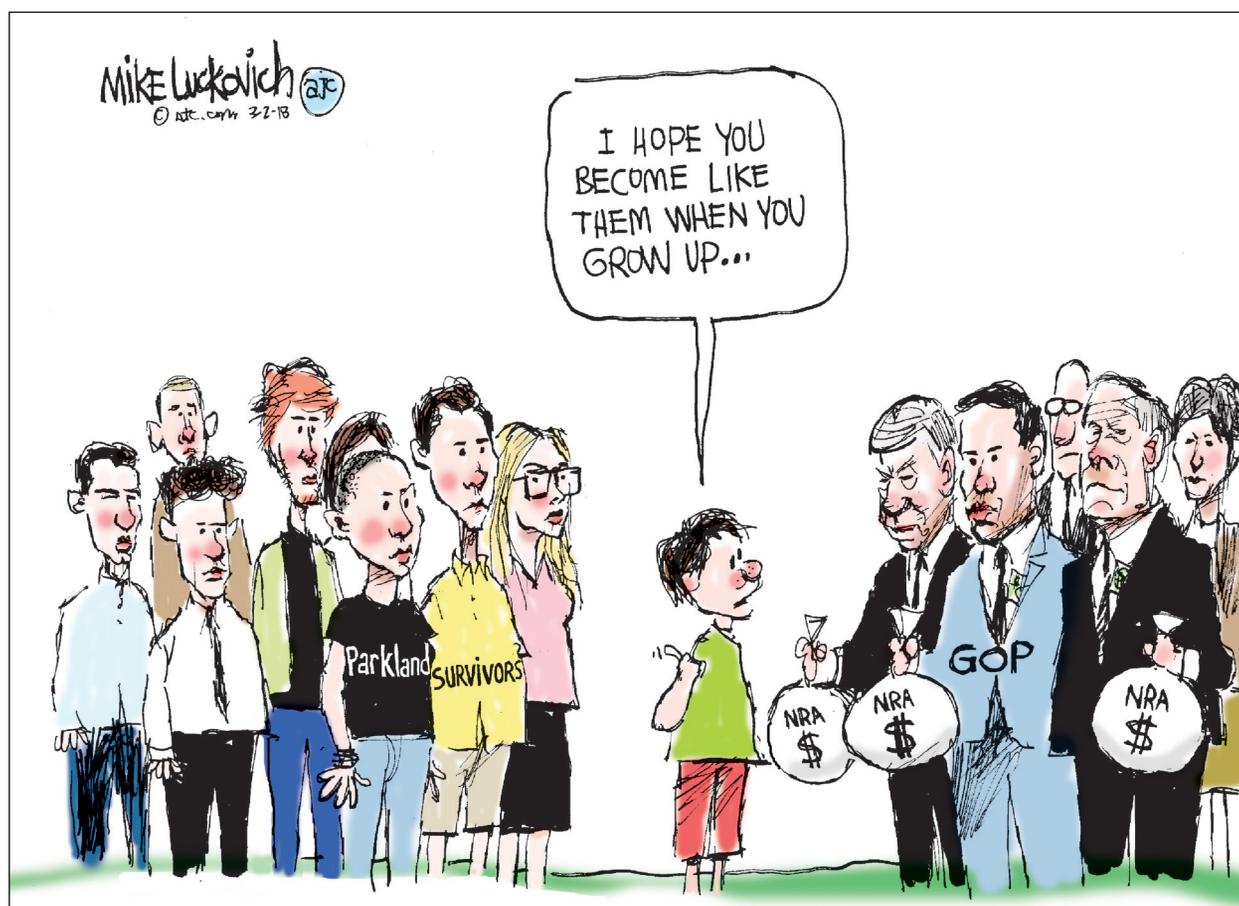
This week, activist groups in the U.S. made strides in urging the White House to allow transgender people to continue serving in the military. This is after President Donald Trump said he plans to ban transgender people from serving in the armed forces.

As of Friday, TV advertisements will begin airing on channels like Fox, MSNBC and CNN, using a series of quotes from Trump, a former senior military leader and several Congress members who were in the armed forces to argue all qualified Americans should be able to serve.

To the **groups behind this commercial**, we award our last **laurel**. Thank you for striving to promote equality in our country and our armed forces.

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

the independent florida
alligator



Column

Celebrities' opinions make or break marketing

Sooo does anyone else not open Snapchat anymore? Or is it just me... ugh this is so sad."

This was the tweet that caused Snapchat's market value to drop \$1.3 billion last week. Kylie Jenner, reality television star and author of the tweet, was the sole cause of Snapchat's 6 percent stock decline. That's right — one individual tweeted her opinion and left a billion-dollar dent in a publicly traded company.

If you want Kim Kardashian to promote you via Instagram, it's going to cost you in the neighborhood of \$250,000 per post. This figure probably sounds absurd; however, upon further consideration, it starts to look like a steal.

Kardashian currently has 108 million followers on Instagram. Each post tends to get between 1 million and 3 million likes. However, this number is likely far lower than the actual reach of her posts. Nonetheless, if you conservatively assumed only 5 million people view each post, the \$250,000 promotion cost would equate to about 50 cents per view.

Take this 50 cents per view and compare it with the rates for other digital marketing mediums. The average cost-per-click is \$2.32 through Google AdWords and \$1.72 on Facebook. This is if you go by cost-per-action, in which an advertiser pays a designated price per desired action, which often is a sale. These, logically, are more expensive, averaging \$59.16 on Google and \$18.68 on Facebook.

As a marketer, a consumer seeing Kardashian use your product is nowhere close to an actual transaction or sale taking place, but it's a start. It is hard to put an exact price on exposure and brand recognition, the effects of which might not be measured in immediate sales or return on this particular investment.

That being said, celebrity endorsements have a unique reach and influence potential of almost immeasurable value. Nowadays, marketers have a nearly infinite source of access and influence into the pockets of consumers via mobile devices.

Recent data suggests the average U.S. consumer spends



Andrew Hall
opinions@alligator.org

five hours a day on their phone. They're exposed to an almost infinite number of avenues through which marketers can reach them.

Why is a celebrity endorsement so influential? Because it effectively and efficiently taps into two of the three components of persuasion: pathos and ethos.

Ethos is associated with credibility. Regardless of whether it is merited, we perceive celebrities as credible sources. We're familiar with them, and they almost feel like artificial friends or family to

us. Like anyone else in our personal life, if we like them, we tend to trust them. Whether the celebrity is an expert in the field of whatever is being endorsed or simply a well-liked person with a massive following, consumers often feel a connection and form an association with the product that is built upon trust.

Pathos deals with emotions and can be incredibly powerful in persuasion/influence. If you are a fan of someone, there's a good chance you will be open to and receptive of whatever they like. Many of us want to be like our heroes and people of interest, a habit that doesn't necessarily leave people as they grow up. The association here is simple but potent. If someone loves Jenner, then there is a good chance those same positive emotions will become associated with the product she is endorsing.

Voila! The marketer has now harnessed part of your love for Jenner and applied it to its own product.

The obvious downside to this marketing method is that it entirely hinges upon the reputation of the celebrity. If a scandal breaks out with your celebrity, then the endorsement can have just as powerful negative effects.

Overall, it might be a steep price to pay for some companies but because of their massive reach and cultural impact, celebrity endorsements might be the single most powerful marketing tool of the future.

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

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

Column

Does Trump's cabinet represent America or just people who are like him?

Representation matters. It's almost always clear if an organization is hiring enough people of color or isn't helping them ascend to leadership roles.

Representation is important in sectors of government, especially where the president has power to appoint many of the people within them. The composition of a president's appointments reveal whose voices are being heard. The U.S. president has the power to select whose advice he pays attention to when it comes to his judges, cabinet members and, of course, the staff of his White House.

President Donald Trump likes to say he has helped minorities and women through things like reducing the black unemployment rate and hiring women through the Trump Organization. His daughter and advisor, Ivanka Trump, seems to support this in her public statements. This, however, has been contradicted by his statements and actions over the years. Despite his history, what do his appointments say?

According to an analysis by NPR, which

has been updated with each new Trump appointment, Trump's choices are less diverse than his predecessors. Former President Barack Obama had the lowest amount of white men as appointments so far at 36 percent. Trump raised that to 71 percent, and his appointments are just 19 percent nonwhite and 19 percent women. This represents a significant step backward. How can the concerns of all Americans be heard when a cabinet skews toward one demographic?

Some might say it's unfair to compare Trump to the previous democratic administration. However, the overall trend — Democrat or Republican — is toward more inclusive appointments. Among recent presidents, Trump is only surpassed by former President Ronald Reagan in his appointments of white men. The most recent former President George Bush's cabinet was 59 percent white men.

Often those who oppose affirmative action



Nicole Dan
opinions@alligator.org

will say it's more important to have someone who is qualified in the position as opposed to focusing on a racial balance. This is a false equivalence: You can have both.

Some of Trump's appointments have been questionable, with many not having experience relevant to their position. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, a neurosurgeon known for separating conjoined twins and who recently allegedly fired a staffer for not approving outlandish expenses to decorate his office, may not be the most qualified person to serve as the secretary of his department. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, who served as a deputy secretary of transportation and a secretary of labor, shows how someone who is both qualified and not a white man can be chosen.

Other leaders have taken an active role in making sure their advisors are representative of the population. Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau's cabinet was the first Canadian cabinet to have an equal amount of men and women and included a refugee and two aboriginal members.

Trump's leadership style is revealed not just in his press secretary's statements and his tweets, but also in who he chooses to represent him. There are few women and minorities whispering to the president's ear, and this may end up having policy consequences down the road. Instead of bragging about how he's improved things for minorities, Trump should instead think about how he can ask them what he can improve — but that requires having a more representative inner circle. Trump's current cabinet does not represent America as a whole.

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

Column

Trump's infrastructure plan inadequately addresses America's situation

President Donald Trump recently revealed his plan to improve America's infrastructure. I believe the plan falls short when it comes to solving problems. Infrastructure can be defined as anything from bridges to electrical grids, but I'll focus on three sectors in desperate need of reform: roads, dams and water systems.

While everyone has experienced the frustration of traffic congestion, it is important to see infrastructure beyond the daily commute. According to historian and engineer Henry Petroski, delays caused by traffic congestion alone cost the economy more than \$120 billion every year. With many of America's road networks built back in the 1950s, they were never built with the intention of supporting today's growing population. From the lack of investment for repairs and modifications, roads that once provided jobs during the Great De-

pression and stimulated economic growth in the 1950s now hinder economic productivity.

Dams have provided power to millions for more than 50 years, but many have been neglected. In 2015, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials listed over 2,000 state-regulated dams in the U.S. for needing repairs, and 70 percent of these dams will be more than 50 years old in the next two years. Dam failure has already occurred in California and Nevada since January, devastating local ecosystems and causing millions of dollars in damage. As the federal government stalls in providing the money to repair these aging dams, the chance for more dam failures only increases.

Living in a developed country, one would think every American has access to clean wa-



Joshua Udvardy
opinions@alligator.org

ter. Unfortunately, as many as 25 million have been recently exposed to water that does not meet the Safe Drinking Water Act standards. SDWA violations are rooted in the inability for many rural municipalities to adapt to a 2002 Environmental Protection Agency rule change on chlorination disinfection. While chlorine is a popular disinfectant, recent research has shown chlorine

can yield toxic by-products. Cities have the option to further treat the water once chlorinated or switch to another disinfectant, yet both options cost money municipalities don't have.

There are more aspects of America's infrastructure Trump's plan fails to address, but the coinciding problem comes down to a lack of funding. The current plan's budget allocates \$200 billion for the 2019 fiscal year. To put that

into context, the EPA estimates repairs and updates to America's water infrastructure alone will require \$632 billion over the next decade. In order to achieve next year's infrastructure objectives, the proposed plan expects \$1.3 trillion from state and private investments. However, if the state and local governments had that kind of money to invest, they would have done so already. The money needs to come from the federal level.

Improving infrastructure shouldn't be used as a political strategy or polling boost. The daily life of every American is shaped by the state of this country's infrastructure. The federal government must address current infrastructure problems with a plan that actually works.

Joshua Udvardy is a UF environmental engineering junior. His column focuses on science.

STAYING SAFE ON SPRING BREAK

MODERATE

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

PROTECT YOURSELF

STAY IN CONTROL

AVOID STRANGERS

MAKE SMART CHOICES

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

TALK WITH FRIENDS

PLAN AHEAD

USE BUDDY SYSTEM

BE AWARE | BE CAUTIOUS | BE RESPONSIBLE | BE SAFE

Be Well. Do Well.
GatorWell | **UF** | Division of Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Advertise in The Alligator's

STUDENT LIVING GUIDE

Spotlight your property by advertising in the Student Living Guide, which publishes on the same day as UF's off-campus housing fair.

Quarter page ads and larger receive free map spotting.

Run Date
Mar. 16

Deadline
Mar. 14

advertising@alligator.org
352-376-4482

alligator
the independent Florida

Let's meet at

INDIGO'S

GO FOR THE GREEN.
RECYCLE.

alligator

ARCHER BEAUTY

NYX, Hair Pieces
Extensions, Wigs
Newberry Square
location NOW OPEN

3501 SW 34th St
(352) 377-5733

Weather could be the most unpredictable factor for the students



Courtesy to the Alligator

David DiMauro, a 22-year-old UF biology senior, ascends the Tongariro Alpine Crossing in New Zealand during Summer 2017. He will guide a hike up five mountains over Spring Break.

MOUNTAIN, from pg. 1

enced.”

Longtrear, 26, has worked the park for two years now and knows the weather is the most unpredictable factor for climbers. Thick fog can roll in quickly and affect visibility.

“There’s no real forecast,” she said.

To keep spirits high over the course of the three days, once the reality of the climb and the pain set in, Surdyke said she’ll be reminding everyone why they’re doing it in the first place.

“You foster a whole different level of strength when you’re climbing for a cause,” she said. “You feel very inspired.”

It’s a metaphor Climb For Cancer’s co-founder Ron Farb has lived by since the organization started in 2003. The foundation has already raised more than \$2 million since its founding. Farb, 72, said funding comes from people whose lives were affected by cancer.

“If you ask the 90,000 people on game day at the Swamp, ‘Raise your hand if you haven’t been touched by cancer,’ nobody could,” he said.

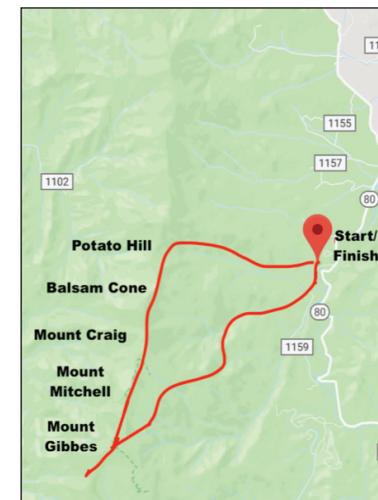
Farb said he’s been astounded

by the passion for philanthropy among these students, who have embraced using this trip as an opportunity to climb for a cause.

“I’ve done (Mount) Everest, which may seem like something great to you,” Farb said. “But the cancer kids are climbing Everest every day of their lives.”

@_ElohEl

enasby@alligator.org



Elliott Nasby / Alligator Staff

Pictured is the trail the group of students will take.

RedCoach has faced 28 complaints over the past three years

FEATURE, from pg. 1

Sant’Ana, the operations manager of RedCoach, said.

Each bus is equipped with GPS tracking and a system to notify a call center of any mechanical issues. The headquarters also receives weekly reports on drivers to check for violations.

“We take safety seriously. It’s not something to take lightly,” he said. “Our main goal is to provide a great experience for the passengers.”

Standing on the side of the road with her suitcase and backpack for 15 minutes, Berliant scrambled to call an Uber to make it back to Tampa for her 7 p.m. flight.

She couldn’t find any landmarks to tell the driver, she said. Sant’Ana said she was dropped off near a fire station and commercial plaza, at 9312 49th Ave. E in Palmetto, but Berliant remembers seeing nothing.

One \$56 Uber ride, and \$60 RedCoach ticket, later, Berliant made it to the airport. But her family still doesn’t know how it was allowed to happen.

On the bus leading to the Tampa drop-off location, Berliant asked one of the two men driving, who was not in uniform, if the next stop was for the airport, she said. He said no.

After about an hour, Berliant approached the driver again, who told her to ask the other driver. Berliant hesitantly tapped the man, who had been asleep, and asked.

He laughed, she said.

They had passed Tampa ages ago, he told her. The next stop was Naples.

“It felt very degrading, like he was judging me for being a young

girl, and like I didn’t know where I was and made me feel like I was really clueless,” she said.

The drivers, whose names were not released, will receive a written warning for breaking protocol and letting Berliant off at a non-designated stop, Sant’Ana said. The driver not in uniform was a trainee, who was being supervised by the sleeping driver.

“Ideally he should be awake through that, but I would not reprimand the driver if he falls asleep while he is not driving if he is just the companion for the second driver,” Sant’Ana said.

Twenty days after the incident, Berliant’s mom received a response from RedCoach saying she was let off due to her insistence. Sant’Ana said passengers are responsible for knowing their stops.

The company offered Berliant 20 percent off on her next trip, but Elizabeth Berliant vowed to never use the company again.

“My beautiful 18-year-old daughter standing on the side of the road with nothing around her was absolutely a parent’s worst nightmare,” she said.

Over the past three years, RedCoach, which only serves Florida, has closed 28 complaints through the Better Business Bureau and an overall “A” rating. The complaints include buses being several hours late, ignoring requests for refunds and trips being canceled last minute.

RedCoach was also issued six citations in Broward County during 2017 for operating buses without a current valid permit, according to court records. Two of the citations have been dismissed and the other four cases are open.

Megabus, an international bus company that began servicing Gainesville in 2011, has had 908 complaints submitted to the bureau in the past three years. The company has been around for four years longer than RedCoach and serves 33 states.

Megabus has invested \$1.5 million in safety precautions like GPS technology and a 24/7 call center that monitors drivers in real time, according to a brochure from Sean Hughes, the director of corporate affairs for Megabus. The company also requires drivers to take at least nine hours between each shift, one hour longer than the federal requirement.

“We feel that we’re the industry leader as far as safety goes,” he said.

Elana Goldstein, a UF accounting graduate student, said she doesn’t know if Megabus is the industry leader but certainly feels safe on it.

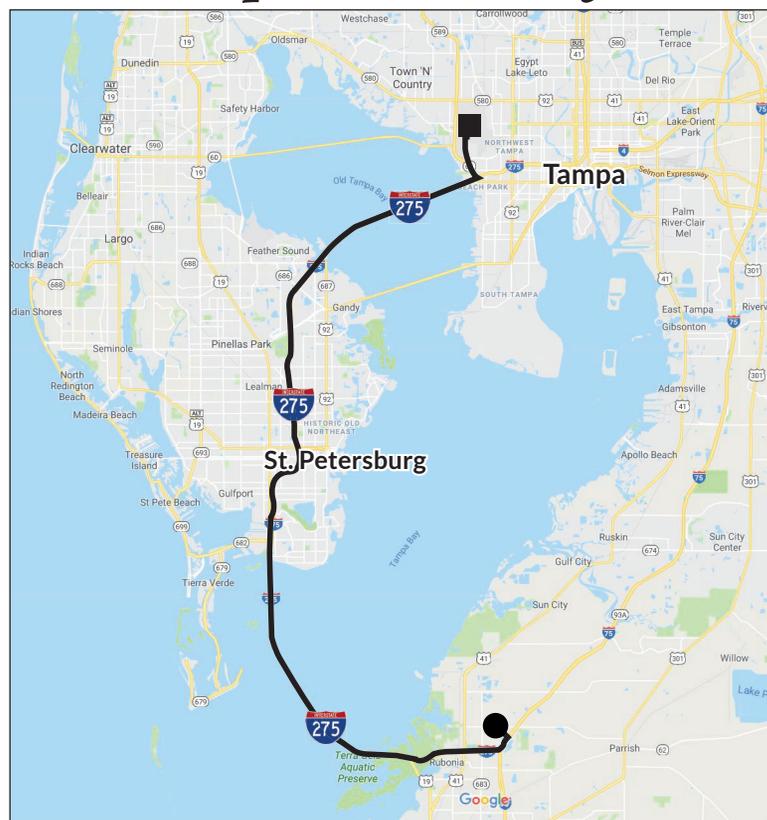
The 22-year-old has ridden a variety of commercial bus lines including Megabus, GMG Transport and Greyhound but has become a loyal customer to Megabus, she said.

“I don’t know any bus company that does a better job,” she said.

Kevin Chi, a UF psychology sophomore, prefers to use GMG Transport — a bus company servicing only Florida — when he travels back to Miami. The 20-year-old said he feels safer because it specifically serves college students and their friends.

Jennifer Socorro, a manager at GMG Transport, said the company serves between 200 and 300 students weekly. The company has had two complaints through the bureau within the last three years.

None of their drivers have ever



Courtesy to The Alligator

Halle Berliant’s Uber path from Interstate 75 exit 229, where RedCoach dropped her off, to the Tampa International Airport.

received a ticket while operating a bus since the company began in 1983, she said. Socorro believes it’s due to their high standards. Most of their drivers have at least 10 to 12 years of experience with other bus companies before they join.

Though RedCoach won’t suspend either of the drivers, they’re planning a meeting Tuesday to discuss what happened, Sant’Ana said.

“We need to make measures to

ensure drivers don’t repeat the same exact kind of mistakes,” he said.

Elizabeth Berliant wants to make sure nobody else goes through what her daughter did. Although she’s not satisfied with the company, she is thankful her daughter made it home safely.

“We are lucky that she’s unharmed,” she said.

@jessica_giles_

giles@alligator.org

UF adds street sign on campus in honor of Hare Krishnas

By **Amanda Rosa**
Alligator Staff Writer

An orange and blue sign on the Plaza of the Americas is a quiet reminder of the Hare Krishnas' legacy at UF.

The group has been serving lunches on campus for nearly 50 years, and last Fall, they donated about \$200,000 to renovate the plaza.

"Krishna Lunch Lane," the metal plaque reads.

UF added the street sign as part of its renovation of Plaza of the Americas in the Fall, university spokesperson Steve Orlando said. Orlando didn't know how much the sign cost.

The \$2.2 million renovation project to the plaza was mainly funded by a private donation of \$1.3 million from donors Herb and Catherine Yardley. Most of the rest of the money came from the office of UF Chief Operating Officer Charlie Lane, according to Alligator archives.

The Hare Krishnas also gave a

\$200,000 donation for the renovation. The sign commemorates the donation and daily lunches they have served on campus since 1971, Orlando said.

Audrey Gonzalez whipped out her phone immediately after spotting the sign Monday.

Gonzalez, a UF business management senior, was driving with her friend past the Plaza of the Americas when she saw the sign and knew she had to post a photo of it on Snapchat. Her caption read, "Krishna lunch lane! Best thing UF has ever

done with my tuition money."

The 22-year-old said she has eaten Krishna lunches since her freshman year.

"It is the highlight of my week sometimes," she said. "It's some of my best memories just sitting in Plaza of the Americas hanging out with friends or just eating it by myself."

Animesh Adhikasi, 20, a Santa Fe College computer science sophomore and Hare Krishna member, said the group contributed to the plaza's renovation to continue its relationship with UF and its students.

The donation was partially funded by student lunch donations, which are about \$5 per meal, he said. The lunches feed about 700 people a day, he said.

Adhikasi said he's proud to see the Krishna lunch lane sign.

"For me personally, seeing Krishna lunch up there shows how Krishna lunch has touched so many people's hearts and bellies," he said.

@AmandaNicRosa
arosa@alligator.org

UF alumni start app for students to carpool

By **Celeste Mahfood**
Alligator Contributing Writer

Two UF alumni created an app to make carpooling easier and safer for students looking for rides to and from Gainesville.

The idea for the app, "Wahi Ride," came from the start of the Facebook group "UF Ride Board!," which has more than 19,000 members, said Diego De La Hoz, one of the app's co-founders and group administrators. The ride board allows students to make posts on when they're looking for rides back home and to school. De La Hoz said he saw some users were having issues with scammers and students not paying others for the ride.

To fix this, De La Hoz and Jonny Petrucco created Wahi Ride and launched it Feb. 1. Since the launch, it has had more than 1,000 downloads, De La Hoz said.

Wahi Ride users need an email address from any Florida university and an active Facebook account to use the app, De La Hoz said. The app veri-

fies phone numbers and conducts a preliminary check on the drivers for security measures.

De La Hoz said they chose to use the word "Wahi" for the app because the word means "share" in one of New Zealand's official dialects, Maori.

"Could we just advertise Wahi as a carpooling app?" De La Hoz, 24, said. "Absolutely, but I really believe that we as humans have the capability to connect with each other."

BrinnLee Lambert, an 18-year-old UF microbiology and cell science freshman, said she joined the "UF Ride Board!" in November. She said she would use it if there was an emergency back home in Bonita Springs but her grandma usually picks her up for breaks.

Lambert said the app sounds easy to use and is convenient in comparison to the Facebook page.

"I think it's safe since it's all Floridian kids — we're all smart and intelligent, so I think it's a good thing to use," she said.

Dick's Sporting Goods stops selling assault rifles, restricts firearm sales

By **Amanda Rosa**
Alligator Staff Writer

As Gynell Walker shopped for Nike shirts in the Butler Plaza Dick's Sporting Goods, she was unaware of the hunting rifles and shotguns in the back of the store.

Walker, 45, of Gainesville, didn't realize the Archer Road location sold firearms until after the company pulled assault rifles from affiliated stores Wednesday.

Two weeks after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Dick's CEO Edward Stack announced the company will no longer sell assault-style rifles and high capacity magazines in its stores. Customers must be over the age of 21 to buy firearms. Walmart, which stopped selling assault rifles in 2015, also announced it will no longer sell firearms to customers under 21 years old in a statement Wednesday evening.

In November 2017, Nikolas Cruz, the suspected Parkland shooter, legally purchased a shotgun from a Dick's store. It was not the weapon or type of weapon used at the shooting, but "it could have been," Stack wrote.

"Clearly this indicates on so many levels that the systems in place are not effective to protect our kids and our citizens," he wrote. "We believe it's time to do something about it."

Walker, a stay-at-home wife, said she likes Dick's new age requirement because it will regulate who purchases firearms but thinks more should be done.

"The assault rifles are not the problem. It's who's buying them that's the problem," she said. "You don't have to stop selling them, you just have to know who you're selling them to."

Although Dick's locations stopped selling assault rifles after the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre,

the weapons were still available at the company's 35 subsidiary Field & Stream stores, according to Stack's statement. The closest Field & Stream to Gainesville is in Charleston, South Carolina.

The statement from Dick's also supports stronger gun control reform, including universal background checks and an assault rifles ban.

Daniel Quinones, a UF economics freshman, said he's shopped at Dick's for new running clothes since Sports Authority announced it would close in 2017. The 19-year-old said he was impressed with Dick's for deciding to establish the new age requirement and expects other companies to follow.

"I think it's a good move to take a stand like that because it can set an example for any other store," Quinones said. "They have influence and a large reach, so they're sending a message to a pretty large number of people."

SALES REP OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY



JOHN VIANELLO
major: advertising

CONGRATULATIONS!

alligator

Let's meet at
Indigo's



Fades and Fros
600 NW 5th Ave
Gainesville
FL 32601
(352)
384-1008



CASH - 4 - GOLD
A good place to pawn
Pawn Brokers

Best Jewelry & Loan
www.bestjewelryandloan.com
523 NW 3rd Ave. 352-371-4367



You MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



DONATE BLOOD

Text HERO to 63928 to find your nearest Big Red Bus!

DONOR Rewards
\$10 eGift Card

FREE OneBlood T-shirt & \$10 eGift Card for all donors!

oneblood.org/gainesville

oneblood
Share your power.

Domino's

NOW HIRING
Inside Help + Delivery Drivers

MAKE SOME DOUGH



APPLY ONLINE
www.gatordominos.com

Students talk race relations, host interactive 'Get Out' film

By Anais Roache

Alligator Contributing Writer

Courtney Matthews gave "Get Out" audience members small Ziploc bags containing a plastic spoon, cotton ball and bingo card outside the Reitz Union Auditorium on Wednesday night.

During the interactive screening of the film, which criticizes the treatment of blacks by whites, about 20 people followed along with scenes, stirring the plastic spoons along with the protagonist and putting cotton balls in their ears during another scene.

The Reitz Programming Board and Black Graduate Student Organization hosted the

screening as an end to Black History Month, said Matthews, the BGSO Black History Month chair. The showing was a way to talk about race relations in the U.S. with a highly celebrated and award-winning film.

"No matter what your race or ethnicity is or how you identify, people can resonate with this movie," Matthews, 24, said.

The screening was Aliya Miranda's second time watching the film but first time interacting with it.

"It reminded me of 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show,'" the 21-year-old UF telecommunication senior said. "It was fun to be able to interact to the movie with other

people, and I noticed things I didn't catch the first time."

After the screening, BGSO held a panel about race relations, diversity and inclusion with Reginald Lane, the associate director of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs, and Patricia Hilliard-Nunn, an African American studies professor.

Solange Douglas, the Reitz Union associate director for programs, said the discussion was unusual considering the film came out a year ago.

"I think it's also our desire to start that conversation and continue that conversation forward," she said. "That panel piece adds that to the discussion so that way you watch the film, you experience the film in a new way."

CNN political commentator Angela Rye speaks at UF

SHE WAS PAID \$20,000 TO SPEAK.

By Vivian Nguyen

Alligator Contributing Writer

Angela Rye knows the U.S. is moving toward two societies — one black, one white — and she's exasperated.

On Tuesday, Rye told a room of about 200 students she believes African Americans' position in the country has remained the same because nobody has continued fighting for the equality Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned 50 years ago.

"I can't help but be deeply frustrated about how far we have yet to go," she said.

The Black Student Union and the Women's Student Association hosted the CNN political commentator and NPR political analyst in the University Auditorium to celebrate the closing ceremony of Black History Month and the opening ceremony of Women's History Month, said Rebecca Kravitz, the president of WSA.

The organizations paid \$20,000 to bring Rye to UF, the 22-year-old said.

On stage, Rye said racism has hindered the country's progress.

"The fact that systemic oppression is alive, well and real and has caused some tremendous injustices and has prevented our ability to achieve purpose is a real thing, and we have to address it," she said.

Kassidy Wallace, a 21-year-old UF visual art studies senior, attended the event and said it's important to talk about issues affecting African Americans.

"Celebrating Black History Month at UF is important because it is a predominantly white institution, so being able to have a very visible celebration is something very important to me," she said.

UF student talks about experience with childhood cancer

By Christi-Anne Weatherly

Alligator Contributing Writer

Cheyenne Heflin has been getting stares since her right leg was amputated because of a rare bone cancer. She was 14.

But she isn't ashamed of her silver and black prosthetic leg.

"I always like telling people what happened so they can realize that this is a thing. It happens," said 19-year-old Heflin, who's been cancer-free for five years. "But it's also not the end of the world."

The UF biology freshman was one of two who spoke about their experiences with childhood cancer — in Heflin's case, osteosarcoma — Wednesday evening in Pugh Hall. The panel discussion, "A Childhood Cancer Dialogue," was part of "Do You Believe In Happy Endings?," a UF public relations campaign that started this semester and brings awareness to pediatric cancer, said Langston Dunbar, an ambassador leader and social media manager for the group.

UF Bateman team, a group of five public relations students, created the Happy Endings

campaign for its client, With Purpose, a non-profit organization that raises money for and brings awareness to children with cancer.

"We have all the facts, we have all the data, but it's a lot different when you hear the story and you hear the survivors and how it affected them," Dunbar said.

The other speaker, Katie Sloan, a 20-year-old Seminole State College special education junior, shared the story of her friend Alex Ramos. Ramos was 15 when she died from Ewing's sarcoma, another rare form of bone cancer.

"I didn't think that there was going to be a normal, or a different kind of happy after her," Sloan said. "But I realized that she's still here in everything that I do all the time."

Wendy Velez, a UF international studies junior, said she attended the event because she knew Sloan. She also wanted to learn more about lesser-known forms of cancer.

"I think it really does genuinely motivate me to want to act more toward helping the research, helping the awareness for childhood cancer," Velez, 21, said.

University of Florida
SNAP
Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol



Download the new SNAP UF App
Or call 392-SNAP (7627)

GT MOTORCARS AUTO COLLISION EXPERTS

352-371.0215 33 SE 13th Road gt-motorcars.net

Student Discount Provided • Certified Technicians

THE CANCER PROJECT

Finally!

A prescription with side effects you want.

Blueberries and red beans, just a few of the many foods rich in antioxidants, are powerful remedies in the fight against cancer. Research shows that fruits, vegetables, and other low-fat vegetarian foods may help prevent cancer and even improve survival rates. A healthy plant-based diet can lower your cholesterol, increase your energy, and help with weight loss and diabetes. Fill this prescription at your local market and don't forget—you have unlimited refills!

For a free nutrition booklet with cancer fighting recipes, call toll-free 1-866-906-WELL or visit www.CancerProject.org



THE HELP YOU NEED,
ALL IN ONE PLACE.

Student Health Care Center
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

HOURS:
M-F: 8am - 5pm
Closed Saturdays
Sunday: 12 - 4pm

Illness & Injury Care
Nutrition Counseling
Sports Medicine
Sexual Health
Physical Therapy
Vaccinations
Travel Counseling
Women's Health
LGBTQ+ Care
Pharmacy
Laboratory
X-Ray & EKG

352.392.1161
shcc.ufl.edu



Classifieds

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018
www.alligator.org/classifieds

1 For Rent furnished

SS & VA ARE WELCOME!
\$410/BedRoom • No Deposit! • Furnished
Cable • Internet • Utilities
www.campuswalk.co 352-337-9098
4-25-43-1

Remember to tell them...

"I found it in The Alligator!"

2 For Rent unfurnished

Empty Space? Find your next tenants in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND to place your ad today!

1BR APT \$445/mo
Small pet ok. 352-372-1201 or 352-213-3901
6-21-18-55-2

★★ ELLIE'S HOUSES ★★
Quality single family homes. Walk or bike to UF. www.ellieshouses.com 352-215-4991 or 352-215-4990 3-28-15-167-2

3 MONTHS FREE!!
MOBILE HOME LOTS FOR RENT. \$350/mo. Located between Gainesville & Alachua (N-441) 50 years in business. Call 386-462-1660 3-14-18-12-2

★★ DEE'S HOUSE ★★
Quality & well-maintained home. WALK OR BIKE TO UF www.abpacker1@gmail.com 352-256-8370, 352-246-8645 2-28-18-3-2

Now you can easily submit your classified ad for print and/or web editions right thru our website!

Just go to www.alligator.org/classifieds
Visa and Mastercard accepted.

SAY:
"I FOUND IT IN THE ALLIGATOR!"

3 Subleases

Don't get stuck with an extra rent payment. Advertise your subleases in the Alligator Classifieds and save yourself some cash. Call 373-FIND.

One bedroom for rent in a three bedroom two bathroom furnished apartment. Private bedroom, shared bathroom. Males Only. Rent is \$459 a month which includes utilities/cable/internet. Email jrk12b@my.fsu.edu for more info 3-14-18-3-3

4 Roommates

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOUR LOUD MUSIC! Is your roommate driving you crazy? Find a replacement in the Alligator Classifieds!

5 Real Estate

Sell your house, condo, acreage, mobile home and much more in the ALLIGATOR CLASSIFIEDS! Reach thousands of possible buyers! Mastercard and Visa accepted over the phone, by fax, email or **CHECK OUT PLACING YOUR AD THRU OUR ONLINE AT www.alligator.org**. or please call 373-Find (373-3463)

NEW CONDOS-WALK TO UF
For Info on ALL Condos for Sale, Visit www.UFCONDOS.COM or Matt Price, University Realty, 352-281-3551 4-25-43-5

VARIETY OF AFFORDABLE, Eastern Montana properties For Sale! Many opportunities in a great recreational area! Please go to our website www.montanalandauctions.com or call (406)366-5588. 3-2-1-5

6 Furnishings

Got a new couch?. Sell your old one in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND (3463) to place your ad today.

6 Furnishings

BEDROOM SET \$300 BRAND NEW
5 Piece Bedroom Sets Available in Twin, Full, Queen, & King sizes. Can Deliver. 352-377-9846. Gainesville Discount Furniture. 3-28-167-6

SECTIONAL SOFA \$389
NEW in Package w/ warranty. Multiple sizes, colors, & styles available. Can Deliver. Call 352-377-9846. Gainesville Discount Furniture 3-28-167-6

BEDS - Brand Name, Brand NEW Pillowtop Mattress & Box Set: Twins \$89, Fulls \$100, Queens \$120, Kings \$200. Can Deliver 352-377-9846. Gainesville Discount Furniture. 3-28-167-6

MICROFIBER SOFA & LOVESEAT \$400
Brand NEW still packaged w/warranty. Must sell. Can Deliver. 352-377-9846. Gainesville Discount Furniture 3-28-167-6

7 Computers

Selling computers, parts, or repair services or just looking for that new rig? Look in the Alligator Classifieds. Call 373-FIND for more information.

COMPUTER & LAPTOP REPAIRS
Network specialists
We buy computers and laptops
Working and Non-working
378-4009, 1410 NW 13th Street
3-12-43-7

8 Electronics

Place an ad to sell your old stereo, cell phone, and more in the Electronics Section of the Alligator Classifieds. 373-FIND

9 Bicycles

In the market for a new set of wheels or just looking to add a second to that collection? Want personalized handlebars or a fitted seat? Check in the Alligator Classifieds

10 For Sale

●UF Surplus On-Line Auctions●
are underway...bikes, computers, furniture, vehicles & more. All individuals interested in bidding go to: SURPLUS.UFL.EDU 392-0370 4-25-18-43-10

Goats for Sale & Lease
Horse Boarding - 7 miles to UF
Charlie - 352-278-1925 4-25-43-10

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N 3-2-1-10

11 Motorcycles/Mopeds

Alligator Classifieds is the way to get your 2 wheels on the road. Show off your bikes, scooters, and repair services. Call 373-FIND to get your classified in.

Now you can easily submit your classified ad for print and/or web editions right thru our website!

Just go to www.alligator.org/classifieds
Visa and Mastercard accepted.

12 Autos

Unload your lot. Sell your cars through Alligator Advertising for cheap. 373-FIND or place your ad online at www.alligator.org/classifieds

● We Buy Junk & Used Cars ●
●Trucks, Vans - Titled only ●
KT 352-281-9980 sunnyman352@gmail.com
4-25-43-12

Don't forget to tell them:

"I found it in The Alligator!"

12 Autos

Sunrise Auto Sales
Bring W-2
Drive home today!! Free one year oil change \$1000 discount off the finest price
www.sunriseautosale.net 352-375-9090
4-25-43-12

Sunrise Auto Rental
Easy to Rent!!!
NO credit card required!
www.carrentalsunrise.com
352-375-9090 4-25-43-12

Sun City Auto Sales
Bring W-2
Drive home today!! Free one year oil change \$1000 discount off the finest price
www.sunriseautosale.net 352-338-1999
4-25-43-12

CASH FOR CARS & TRUCKS
Running or Not ★ Any Condition
352-771-6191 3-2-18-11-12

13 Wanted

This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through advertising. We suggest that any reader who responds to advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information or arranging meetings or investing money.

The American Cancer Society
Road to Recovery Volunteers Needed!
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED
to transport cancer patients to treatment.
Flexible schedule.
Training and liability insurance provided.
Please call
352-240-5062 if interested.

How to Place a Classified Ad:

Online: w/ major creditcard at www.alligator.org/classifieds

In Person:
Cash, Check, MC, Discover, AMEX or Visa
The Alligator Office
2700 SW 13th St.
M-F, 8am - 4pm

By E-mail: classified@alligator.org
By Fax: (352) 376-4556
By Mail: P.O. Box 14257 G-ville 32604
Call 352-373-FIND for information.
Sorry, no cash by mail.
Credit cards or checks only.

By Phone: (352) 373-FIND
Payment by major credit card ONLY.
M-F, 8am - 4pm
When Will Your Ad Run?
Ads placed by 4 pm will appear two publication days later. Ads may run for any length of time and be cancelled at any time. Sorry, but there can be no refunds or credits for cancelled ads.

Corrections and Cancellations:

Cancellations: Call 373-FIND M-F, 8am - 4pm. No refunds or credits can be given.
Alligator errors: Check your ad the FIRST day it runs. Call 373-FIND with any corrections before noon. THE ALLIGATOR IS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIRST DAY THE AD RUNS INCORRECTLY. Corrected ads will be extended one day. No refunds or credits can be given after placing the ad. Corrections called in after the first day will not be further compensated.
Customer error or changes: Changes must be made BEFORE NOON for the next day's paper. There will be a \$2.00 charge for minor changes.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 For Rent: Furnished | 6 Furnishings | 11 Motorcycles, Mopeds | 16 Health Services | 21 Entertainment |
| 2 For Rent: Unfurnished | 7 Computers | 12 Autos | 17 Typing Services | 22 Tickets |
| 3 Sublease | 8 Electronics | 13 Wanted | 18 Personals | 23 Rides |
| 4 Roommates | 9 Bicycles | 14 Help Wanted | 19 Connections | 24 Pets |
| 5 Real Estate | 10 For Sale | 15 Services | 20 Event Notices | 25 Lost & Found |

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. • All employment opportunities advertised herein are subject to the laws which prohibit discrimination in employment (barring legal exceptions) because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, familial status, age, or any other covered status. • This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through the type of advertising that is known as "personal" or "connections" whether or not they actually appear under those classifications. We suggest that any reader who responds to that type of advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information. • Although this newspaper uses great care in accepting or rejecting advertising according to its suitability, we cannot verify that all advertising claims or offers are completely valid in every case and, therefore, cannot assume any responsibility for any injury or loss arising from offers and acceptance of offers of goods and/or services through any advertising contained herein.

13 Wanted



St. Francis House
— transitions to end homelessness

St. Francis House is a homeless shelter and soup kitchen located in downtown Gainesville, and we are looking for help from volunteers like you.

St. Francis House depends on monetary support from individual donors and community businesses in order to help feed the homeless and the hungry.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the volunteer coordinator at (352) 505-3311 ext 4 or sfhcoor@stfrancis.cfooxmail.com

To make a donation by mail, please send checks payable to St. Francis House P.O. Box 12491 Gainesville, FL 32604 www.stfranchishousegnv.org.

CASH FOR CARS & TRUCKS
Running or Not ★ Any Condition
352-771-6191 3-2-18-11-13

14 Help Wanted

This newspaper assumes no responsibility for injury or loss arising from contacts made through advertising. We suggest that any reader who responds to advertising use caution and investigate the sincerity of the advertiser before giving out personal information or arranging meetings or investing money.

Now you can easily submit your classified ad for print and/or web editions right thru our website!

Just go to www.alligator.org/classifieds
Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Morgan Freeman SU2C Ambassador Executive Producer of the documentary, *The C Word*

Tonya Peat Cancer Survivor

Be the breakthrough.™

Breakthroughs are the patients participating in clinical trials, the scientists and doctors working together to advance the fight against cancer, and the brave survivors like Tonya who never give up. Let's be the breakthrough. To learn about appropriate screenings and clinical trials or to help someone with cancer, go to su2c.org/breakthrough. #cancerbreakthrough

STAND UP TO CANCER
Genentech
A Member of the Roche Group

Stand Up To Cancer is a program of the Entertainment Industry Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Please talk to your healthcare provider about appropriate screenings for your age, sex, family history and risk factors; and about clinical trials that may be right for you. Photo by Nigel Parry

14 Help Wanted

Students in Accounting, Aviation, Business/Sales and computer science needed for various positions. Flexible schedules and competitive pay. Join our team! Learn more at www.gleim.com/employment 6-21-18-55-14

Don't forget to tell them:

"I found it in The Alligator!"

HIRING home/office/apartment cleaners(m-f and every other sat). Day and night shifts available. Must own a car. weekly pay \$8.50/hr. if interested please call 352-214-0868 3-30-18-32-14

We need After School Program Staff for ages 3-6 & 1st-8th grade. M-F 2:00-6:00 PM. Starting Immediately. Submit resume to mmschool@millhopper.com 2-28-18-3-14

Swim Instructors wanted. Fun and rewarding position with a great company. Lifeguard cert preferred. Experience with children, swim preferred. Apply today suncountrysports.com/jobs 3-23-18-10-14

Part time bilingual assistant (English/Spanish) for law office. Please send your resume to yvlawoffice@gmail.com 3-2-18-4-14

HELP WANTED PART TIME
Students Only
Yard Work/Odd Jobs & Errands
Starts at \$13.00 per hour.
Contact: fairoaks1879@aol.com 3-14-18-6-14

Photographer making underwater Youtube videos at Blue Springs seeks female models. Gig pays \$25 for 90 minutes plus pictures and park reimbursement.
Call for more info 352-286-4579 3-19-18-5-14

LOOKING FOR
KEYBOARD PLAYER
For 2 Sundays each month. Gospel music.
Call 352-870-8077 3-14-18-3-14

15 Services

Do you have a business that provides a service? Place your ad in the Services Section of the Alligator Classifieds for as little as **\$3.00 per day**. Call us at 373-FIND.

Now you can easily submit your classified ad for print and/or web editions right thru our website!

Just go to www.alligator.org/classifieds
Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Affordable Attorney
12 Years Experience
Call or Text Sam 24/7 904.600.2683 4-25-17-86-15

Want to be a CNA? Don't want to wait? Express Training Services now offers a CNA class which can be completed in one week-end. Perfect for busy college students. www.expresstrainingservices.com/ww 4-25-17-43-15

MATH/PHYSICS TUTORING
PhD in mathematical physics. Subjects: algebra, trig, pre-calc, calc or general physics. Rate: \$20/hr. youtube channel: tutelar tutoring. email: tutelar@instruction.com 3-21-25-15

● PREVENTIVE CARE
● DISABILITY EVALUATIONS
● AND PROGRAM FOR AUTISM.
Call 352-275-8171 3-30-12-15

AVIATION Grds work with JetBlue, United, Delta and others- start here with hands on training for FAA certification. Financial aid if qualified. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 888-242-2649. 3-2-1-15

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

SCRABBLE **G R A M S**

Hasbro and its logo, SCRABBLE®, associated logo, the design of the distinctive SCRABBLE brand game board, and the distinctive letter tile designs are trademarks of Hasbro in the United States and Canada. ©2018 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

A ₁	A ₁	E ₁	O ₁	R ₁	R ₁	T ₁		RACK 1
A ₁	E ₁	S ₁	N ₁	L ₁	X ₈	S ₁		Double Word Score RACK 2
A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	Z ₁₀	D ₂	G ₂	B ₃		1st Letter Triple RACK 3
A ₁	E ₁	O ₁	K ₅	R ₁	M ₃	B ₃		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170 **FOUR RACK TOTAL**
BEST SCORE 225 **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**

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA-NorthAmericanSCRABBLEPlayersAssociationinfo@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website-www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

03-02

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

HUDSON OVERCOMES HARDSHIPS

Florida star remained resilient prior to joining Gators

By **Andrew Huang**
Sports Writer

LeBron James, JaKarr Sampson and Jerome Lane.

The trio of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School alums have all played basketball at the highest level, competing in the NBA for a combined 23 seasons.

Florida guard Jalen Hudson, a former player at the Akron high school, is hoping to follow in their footsteps.

"He's definitely in the top five," said St. Vincent-St. Mary coach Dru Joyce II on where Jalen sits among the school's all-time best players. "We'll see how it all pans out."

Jalen, now in his redshirt junior year of college, is having a breakout 2017-18 campaign at UF, scoring at a higher rate than any Gator over the last eight years.

However, the success he has had during his first season in Gainesville — leading Florida to a 10-7 conference record ahead of the team's regular season finale against Kentucky on Saturday at noon — is a stark contrast from the hardships he has faced throughout his life.

Between a divorce that split his family down the middle and a coach who didn't want him, Jalen has proven resilient at every turn, leaning on hard work, discipline and his faith.

"I'm a big follower of Christ," Jalen said, "so I feel like it's already written."

Jalen and his father, Jerry, used to grab pizza and watch movies together every Friday night, a father-son ritual that strengthened their bond.

The two shared everything together, from their passion for sports to their love of Italian food.

"Anytime I went to the store, anywhere I went, he wanted to come with me," Jerry said.

Jalen was close with the rest of his family — his mother, Theresa, and his older sisters, Bri and Chanel — as well.

He would stay up late and watch TV with Bri, four years his senior, as the two siblings laughed and joked with each other. They were fans of "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," but their favorite movie was "All About the Benjamins." Jalen, a Martin Lawrence fan, also loved "Blue Streak."

"He would always fall asleep before me," Bri said. "I would put him on my back and carry him upstairs to his room."

As the years went by, Jalen grew. Eventually, he stood taller than Bri.

"He was so big that when I



Alligator File Photo

Guard Jalen Hudson has had a breakout 2017-18 campaign for Florida, leading the team in scoring with 15.4 points per game. However, his journey to UF didn't come without hardships.

would put him on my back, his feet would drag on the floor," she said. "I couldn't carry him anymore and he was only in the fifth grade."

However, in 2004, Jalen's family started to unravel.

His parents filed for a divorce. Jerry moved to Akron, Ohio, with Chanel, while Theresa, Jalen and Bri stayed put at their home in Richmond, Virginia.

The siblings traveled to see each other whenever they could, with Chanel regularly coming back to Virginia during the summer.

This was the routine Jalen and his sisters followed for years until Theresa began to suffer health problems, causing another shift in the balance of their lives.

Jerry, who declined to go into specifics of his ex-wife's medical condition but said she is "doing well, but she's not in the best health," decided

it would be best for Jalen to finish out his final two years of high school in Ohio with him.

"It's not something that we talk to anyone but family about," he said.

After moving away from Virginia, Jalen enrolled at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron the summer between his sophomore and junior years.

Jalen impressed Joyce II and then-assistant coach Willie McGee as soon as he arrived on campus. McGee — now the athletic director at St. Vincent-St. Mary — recalls Jalen putting his head down and working hard that offseason, attending every summer workout, open gym and training session held at the school.

"He didn't miss," Joyce II said. "He didn't make any excuses."

He did make a lot of shots, leading

St. Vincent-St. Mary in scoring both years he played there. Despite having to defer to Jalen — the new guy — his teammates respected his athletic ability and team-first attitude.

"I think he adjusted well," McGee said, "being part of the St. Vincent-St. Mary community."

One of Jalen's most memorable moments came during his senior year at a showcase in Dayton, Ohio.

Joyce II vividly recalls Jalen driving to the rim from the top of the key and throwing down a crowd-pleasing dunk with a 6-foot-8 defender in his face.

"It was one of those kind of dunks that you're always gonna remember," Joyce II said. "I've seen a lot of great dunks before, with LeBron being here, but that one ranks right up there."

Jalen guided the Fighting Irish to deep postseason runs during his two

years at the school, leading St. Vincent-St. Mary to the state championship game as a junior and the state semifinals as a senior.

"We stumbled and didn't win," Joyce II said, "but without him, we couldn't have gotten to either of those games."

From the moment Jalen started evaluating his options for college, he knew he wanted to compete in the ACC.

He watched Bri run track at North Carolina for four years and hoped to follow in her footsteps.

His wish eventually came true when he signed his National Letter of Intent to play for Virginia Tech and coach James Johnson.

Johnson wanted him on the roster, and athletes already on the team told Jalen that with his abilities, he would almost certainly get substantial playing time.

"(Johnson) was very aggressive in trying to recruit Jalen," Jerry said.

But his career in Blacksburg, Virginia, was derailed before it even started.

Prior to Jalen's arrival on campus, Johnson was fired on March 17, 2014, and replaced with former Marquette coach Buzz Williams four days later.

Suddenly, Jalen was in limbo. Unsure of what Virginia Tech had in store for him, he looked into the

SEE MEN'S B-BALL, PAGE 16

GATORS VS. WILDCATS

WHO: FLORIDA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM (19-11, 10-7 SEC) VS. KENTUCKY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM (21-9, 10-7 SEC)

WHAT: REGULAR SEASON FINALE

WHERE: THE STEPHEN C. O'CONNELL CENTER IN GAINESVILLE

WHEN: SATURDAY AT NOON

TV: CBS



Outfielder **Amanda Lorenz** hit a pair of home runs, including a grand slam, during the Florida softball team's pair of wins over Loyola Marymount and Cal State Fullerton on Thursday.

Correction: Feb. 28, 2018

In the story "AGENT DOUBLE ZERO: Delicia Washington's journey to UF and her tough decision over whether to stay" published Wednesday, it was stated that Florida women's basketball player Delicia Washington did not play AAU basketball. Washington did play on the AAU circuit as a teenager.

Follow us for updates

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



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Florida builds "foundation" in Newbauer's debut season

By Justin Ahlum
Sports Writer

When asked what it has been like to play under the wing of first-year head coach Cameron Newbauer, the waterworks began to flow. Transfer Paulina Hersler had just finished her first and only season in a Florida Gators uniform and couldn't hold back the tears.

"I want to thank coach, personally, for giving me..." Hersler stopped, as the tears began to well up in her eyes. "For giving me a chance to be here for my fifth year. He believes in his players. He coaches like we can do anything."

It was the final time Hersler would sit behind a mic for a postgame press conference as a UF player. She was one of three (Haley Lorenzen and Dyantria Anderson) seniors to start in every contest this season. She also averaged double-figures for the first time

in her career (11.8 points per game).

For Lorenzen and Anderson, the four years they signed up for when they scribbled their names on the dotted line have come and gone.

Lorenzen, the 6-foot-3 forward who came from a basketball family, hangs up her jersey in the Florida 1,000-point club. She leaves the university as the 25th player to achieve the milestone.

Anderson will look into teaching the game after being accepted into the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's "So You Wanna Be a Coach" program earlier this year.

"I'm really proud of what the seniors have done this year to build the foundation of our program," Newbauer said.

Now, the Gators — who finished 2017-18 with a record of 11-19, 3-13 in the SEC — will have to replace three starters over the summer.

But navigating the waters next sea-

son shouldn't be tough if they maintain the mindset Newbauer instilled all season: fight.

"I can't say enough about him," Lorenzen said. "He's pushed us, and myself included, to do things that you never thought you could. To his credit, he helped us believe we can accomplish anything."

But in Newbauer's first year, he couldn't get Florida back above .500. And that was to be expected. UF lost its best scorer — First Team All-SEC forward Ronni Williams — to graduation and struggled with depth throughout the season.

Florida lost players to injury. Some left the team. It was a tough situation for any coach to come into.

Can he revitalize a program that has consistently struggled over the last few decades? Only time will tell.

@justinn_casel
jahlum@alligator.org



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

In his first year at the helm of Florida's women's basketball team, Cameron Newbauer led the Gators to a 3-13 SEC record.

BASEBALL

Gators diversifying offense with power and fundamentals

By Morgan McMullen
Sports Writer

What do the magic bullet theory, particle physics and long-distance relationships have in common?

They're all topics that are easier to understand than the Gators baseball team's offense.

On the surface, Florida's bats look great. They've driven in 76 runs through 10 games, good for 20th best in the nation.

But like Transformers, there's more than meets the eye to that figure. The 7.6 runs per game UF's offense averages are inflated after scor-

ing 10 and 19 runs apiece in games against Siena in its opening weekend.

Expecting a team to score 10 or more runs per game is ludicrous. However, UF's offense remains an anomaly after Wednesday night's 8-3 win over North Florida. In the fifth inning of that game, the team produced five runs thanks in large part to three colossal homers.

So is Florida a power-hitting team? Before that inning against the Ospreys (3-6), Florida hadn't hit a ball out of the park since its first game against Miami on Feb. 23. But leading up to that matchup with the Hurricanes, the Gators had smashed

at least one dinger in every game. So the dry spell between the Miami series and Wednesday night could be the exception to the rule that the Gators are indeed a power team.

Or is UF more of a small-ball club? In their 4-0 shutout against UNF on Feb. 27, the Gators scored three of their runs on plays that also resulted in outs. In Game 2 against the Hurricanes, Florida scored two runs on bases-loaded walks, and another three on a passed ball, a bases-loaded hit by pitch and a sacrifice fly. Actual hits accounted for just three of the Gators' eight runs that night.

These are all features of teams

that are aggressive on the base paths and not necessarily looking to hit for power. Yet Florida is eighth in the country in total home runs hit (14).

When the Gators take on Stony Brook (6-1) tonight at 6:30 at McKethan Stadium, maybe the two styles of play will harmonize and work in tandem.

Pitcher Greg Marino will take the mound for the Seawolves. He'll attempt to neutralize what has been an amorphous-yet-effective Florida offense. Marino, a 6-foot-6 right-hander, has given up four earned runs in his nine innings of work. For a little added drama, the redshirt sopho-

more has not allowed a home run in either of his appearances.

Coach Kevin O'Sullivan doesn't seem to need to define his offense, choosing instead to get younger players experience as opposed to formulating a set offense.

"We gave some other guys some other opportunities to start (Wednesday)," he said in a release. "All in all, we had a chance to get some other guys in there to pitch and to play, and for the most part it was a clean game."

@MorganMcMuffin
mcmullen@alligator.org

Take the winning shot
Advertise with the Alligator

Reach 50,000+ sports fans by featuring your ad on the NCAA Tournament Bracket! This special bracket will be a pull out section that Gator fans can use for the whole three weeks of March Madness to track their favorite teams.

This is your chance to be a part of the first bracket available to the public!
• Publishes the day after bracket announcements are made •

Run Date Deadline
Mon, March 12th Thurs March 8th

Starting at
\$241.79
includes full color

RESERVE YOUR SPACE
TODAY!
376.4482

the independent Florida
alligator

SPORTS ISSUES
2018

RUN 5 OUT OF 14 DATES AND SAVE 15%

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12
Gymnastics vs. LSU

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26
Gymnastics, Tennis

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Men's Basketball vs. Alabama

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Gymnastics, Softball vs. Michigan

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Baseball, Lacrosse

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Men's Basketball, Gymnastics, Softball

FRIDAY, MARCH 2
Men's Basketball vs. Kentucky, Baseball

MONDAY, MARCH 12
Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
Baseball, Softball, Tennis

FRIDAY, MARCH 30
Baseball, Track & Field, Softball, Lacrosse

FRIDAY, APRIL 13
Baseball, Track & Field, Softball, Tennis

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
Softball, Baseball

the independent Florida
alligator

Contact your sales rep at
352-376-4482

HURRICANE
ALTERNATORS, STARTERS & BATTERIES
Best prices on batteries in town!
\$5 OFF ANY REPAIR OR SERVICE
378-4440

GNC
GENERAL NUTRITION CENTERS

3914 SW Archer Rd

\$5 OFF

ANY \$25 PURCHASE
352-377-6020

Cannot be combined with price matching, food or cosmetics purchases. One coupon per customer. Discount only valid at Butler Plaza GNC location. Daily specials. Expires 03/16/18.

Operation PetSnip

Have you heard about our low-cost spay/neuter clinic?

Feline Packages starting at \$50

Canine Packages starting at \$80

alachua county humane society

352.373.5855
4205 NW 6th St. Gainesville, FL 32609
alachuahumane.org/spay-neuter

Hudson transferred to Florida after two years with Hokies

MEN'S B-BALL, from pg. 14

transfer process. He wanted to go about two hours northeast to the University of Virginia, but strict transfer rules stopped that plan in its tracks.

Since Jalen had already signed his National Letter of Intent with the Hokies, if he wanted to leave for another ACC school, he would lose a year of eligibility and have to receive permission from Williams to leave.

"It was just too much," Jerry said. Jalen stayed the course and gave Williams a chance.

During his freshman season, Jalen registered three starts and averaged 6.9 points per game. He also put up 32 points and nailed the game-winning shot in the first round of the ACC Tournament to propel Virginia Tech past Wake Forest 81-80.

Jalen's heroics off the bench earned him the ACC Digital Network's title of ACC Star of the Day.

As a sophomore, he started 24 games and increased his scoring output to 8.4 points per game.

But despite playing well enough to put himself on the map, something was wrong at Virginia Tech. Jalen felt like he was on the outskirts of the team, playing for a coach in Williams who hadn't recruited him.

"It was just kind of an awkward relationship," Jalen said.

Williams' coaching style, predicated on hard-nosed defense, simply didn't fit Jalen's skill set as a free-flowing scorer.

"You come into a new program, you're going to want your guys," Joyce II said of Williams. "A lot of coaches are like that. They have a mindset about the kind of player they want. If that person isn't that player right away, they don't give them as much time to grow."

And at the end of the day, Jalen came to the same conclusion.

"I felt like that really hurt me," he said. "I wanted to maximize my po-



Courtesy of Bri Hudson

Jalen poses with sisters Bri (left) and Chanel (right) after a game between Virginia Tech and Virginia.

tential."

After two years in Blacksburg, Jalen had enough.

He was ready to compete for a coach who wanted him and in a system that fit his playing style.

On April 6, 2016, Williams announced that Jalen had been granted his release from Virginia Tech.

As for the Hudson family, faith would light the way.

"We're a very spiritual family," Chanel said. "We know that everything happens for a reason."

Jalen, who was receiving interest from schools including Florida, Alabama, Arkansas and Texas, didn't know much about the Gators, or their head coach, Mike White. What he did know was that his relationship with his next coach was more important

than any other consideration.

"He wanted to make sure that wherever he went, the coach wanted him," Jerry said.

• • •

After going through all of his options and making official visits to Florida and Texas, Jalen made up his mind: He would finish his college career in Gainesville.

Jerry was impressed by the lengths White went to pursue Jalen.

"(White) didn't just send his assistants, he got on a plane himself," Jerry said. "That struck a chord with Jalen."

After sitting out the 2016-17 season per NCAA transfer rules, Jalen finally took the court for Florida on Nov. 13 in the team's season opener



Courtesy of Bri Hudson

Jalen stands with his father, Jerry, who enrolled him at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, Ohio, in 2012.

against Gardner-Webb. He scored 16 points as the Gators rolled past the Runnin' Bulldogs 116-74.

"I was just so happy for it to finally come," Jalen said. "I was just so happy to finally be there."

But he was just getting started.

Three games into the season, UF took part in the Phil Knight Invitational, a 16-team tournament held in Portland, Oregon, from Nov. 23 to 26. Jalen averaged 25.3 points and 5.7 rebounds per game during the event, leading the Gators to wins over Stanford and 2017 NCAA runner-up Gonzaga.

He recorded 24 points and 10 rebounds in Florida's final game of the bracket, a three-point loss to then-No. 1 Duke.

If people didn't know Jalen Hud-

son's name before, they did then.

With the final regular season game of the year set for Saturday against No. 23 Kentucky, Jalen will do his best to focus on the task at hand: securing a crucial win to bump up Florida's national standing heading into the SEC and NCAA Tournaments.

He tries to stay in the moment, though.

He'll tell you there's no use in worrying about the future. He'll echo his family's love. He'll repeat his words on faith.

"I try not to think about it too much," Jalen said. "It's already written."

@AndrewJHuang
ahuang@alligator.org

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