

alligator



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RTS to reduce bus service for the rest of the semester

The city will announce what routes change today

By Elliott Nasby
Alligator Staff Writer

Regional Transit System buses will be harder to catch starting next Monday.

Service from about 15 city and campus bus routes will be cut back for the rest of Spring semester due to a shortage of drivers, said RTS spokesperson Chip Skinner.

“People will just have to plan accordingly

so they aren’t late for work or class,” he said.

The reduced service will mean less buses arriving at stops. Five campus buses and 10 off-campus buses will see a change. Skinner said bus stop wait times will increase from 12 minutes to 24 minutes in some cases.

Details on the specific route changes will be announced today on the RTS website.

Skinner said morning and afternoon commuters may not notice a difference, but Later

Gators’ Wednesday service, which runs from 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. may be canceled with the new changes.

He said the decision to scale back bus service was influenced by a lack of available bus drivers and declining ridership.

According to Alligator archives, RTS ridership averaged about 10 million in 2013. In 2013, the ridership was fewer than that.

Skinner attributed a decline in ridership to

a scooter boom among UF students, cheaper gas prices and the rising popularity of Uber and other ride-sharing services.

The Gainesville Sun reported the city expects to lose about 190,000 riders during March and April, which would cost RTS \$52,000 a week in revenue.

RTS would need about 30 more drivers to be fully staffed again. Potential drivers undergo a two- to three-month background checking period, followed by at least six weeks of training. Many applicants leave during the process, Skinner said. Only about 40 percent of those interested end up becoming drivers.

The driver shortage RTS is experiencing is affecting other transit systems statewide, he said. With lower unemployment rates, people can afford to take on better paying jobs. RTS drivers currently make \$12.75 per hour.

“It’s very difficult for us to recruit and maintain our workforce,” he said.

Gainesville’s unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in the last decade. The rate was 3.2 percent in December, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Romeo Mati Jr., a 20-year-old UF biology junior, is anxious ahead of RTS’ announcement about which routes will be affected. He takes the 20 bus route from his off-campus apartment to class.

“Depending on if it’s my routes or not, I might not even be able to get on the bus if it’s packed,” he said.

Check alligator.org for updates on RTS route changes.



Shelbie Eakines / Alligator Staff

‘WE WANT CHANGE’

Demonstrators chant, “We want change!” as they make the trek from Oaks Mall to Buchholz High School on Saturday. They carried signs supporting gun reform, specifically in regards to AR-15s. See the photo story on pg. 3.

What riders may see this Spring:

- About 15 routes will face cut backs
- Morning and afternoon riders may not see a difference
- Some wait times will double
- Some Later Gator routes may be canceled as a result of the change

Identity of man killed Saturday unknown, officials say

By Meryl Kornfield
Alligator Staff Writer

Florida Highway Patrol is trying to identify a pedestrian who died Saturday evening after he was hit by two cars near the intersection of U.S. 301 and Southeast 203rd Street.

Both cars were driving north on U.S. 301 before 9 p.m., according to officials. The first

car, a 2013 GMC Acadia, was driven by a 56-year-old Palm City resident and hit the man on the car’s left side, according to a press release. The second car, a 2014 Chrysler Town & Country, was driven by a 31-year-old Orange Park resident.

Both cars pulled over on the east shoulder of the road, officials said. Neither car had pas-

sengers, and the drivers were uninjured.

The man was declared dead at the scene. Officials have not been able to identify the man and are looking for his relatives. Authorities said the man is white and between 50 to 60 years old. He had medium-gray hair and was wearing blue jeans, a black shirt and a brown leather jacket. He also had a faded tattoo on his

right arm, but FHP did not describe the tattoo.

Officials ask that anyone with information about the man should call FHP at 1-800-387-1290.

The case is still under investigation, officials said.

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GATORS ARE GOING DANCING

UF’s men’s basketball team is a No. 6 seed in this year’s NCAA Tournament and will face either St. Bonaventure or UCLA on Thursday, pg. 14



Read about candidates for the city commission
Find out why they are running, pg. 4 and 5

UF researcher studied mosquitoes to track snakes
Now, he’s testing his research in the Everglades, pg. 10

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Today's Weather



AM



NOON



PM

HIGH 65° LOW 37°

Local Events / News in Brief

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The Practice of Latin American Studies: Dilemmas of Scholarly Communication

UF professor emerita Carmen Diana Deere will speak today from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Library West, Room 212. Deere will talk about recent trends toward convergence in academic practices in the North and South whereby excellence is measured by the visibility and impact of faculty publications, particularly those in international journals. In Latin America, this has led to a new twist in the old dilemma of publish or perish: "publishing internationally but perishing locally." At the same time, to increase the visibility of regional scientific production, Latin America has been consolidating national and regional journal information and evaluation systems and leading the global Open Access movement.

Fulbright Awareness Month

The UF International Center will hold Fulbright Awareness Month from today to April 12. Multiple informational sessions for students, scholars, faculty and staff will provide opportunities to learn about the Fulbright application process and to hear about the experiences of past scholars and students. Additionally this year, information sessions will be led by Peter VanDerwater, the director of outreach at the Council for International Exchange for Scholars in Washington, D.C. Email canumba@ufic.ufl.edu to schedule an individual consultation with VanDewater. For more information, visit international-center.ufl.edu and search under Faculty Engagement and Global Learning.

Student Government Spring Housing Fair

Student Government's Spring Housing Fair is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday on the Reitz Union North Lawn. As the largest housing event at UF, students can engage with a wide variety of Gainesville community representatives and gain a better understanding of what off-campus housing communities have to

offer. This is a way to get familiar with off-campus living options. UF resources such as Off Campus Life and Student Legal Services will also be on hand to help answer questions.

Digital Resources Showcase

George A. Smathers Libraries will hold a Libraries' Digital Resources Showcase on Friday on the colonnade outside Library West from 1 to 3 p.m. The showcase will bring librarians and students together to highlight steps for finding the best research online and organizing your work quickly. The event will also feature the One Button Studio, 3-D printing, video streaming access, digital newspapers, mapping tools and institutional repository and digital archival collections.

Florida Museum hosts 'Can You Dig It?' on March 17

Dig into geology and discover the earth at your feet at a free, open-for-all-ages geology event at the Florida Museum of Natural History, located at 3215 Hull Road, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The event is presented in part by the UF Department of Geological Sciences in collaboration with the Gainesville Gem and Mineral Society. For more information, visit floridamuseum.ufl.edu/canyoudigit or call 352-273-2062.

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

The Alachua County Library District is partnering with the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association to present "Law in the Library: Restoration of Civil Rights Workshops" from 4:30 to 6 p.m. March 22 at Cone Park Library Branch, located at 2801 E. University Ave., and 5:30 to 7 p.m. April 5 at Tower Road Library Branch, located at 3020 SW 75th St. Attorneys from Josiah T. Walls Bar Association and law students from the Levin College of Law will provide one-on-one assistance to people who have been convicted of a felony and are interested in applying to have their civil rights restored. These presentations are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. For more information, visit aclib.us/law or call



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

352-334-3900.

Talking Gators Toastmasters

Want to get more comfortable speaking in front of a group? Talking Gators Toastmasters meets every Tuesday at 5:45 p.m. in the Entomology Building, Room 1031. Meetings are free to attend and open to all. For more information, visit talkinggators.toastmastersclubs.org/.

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

AP NEWS AROUND THE WORLD**Official: At least 2 dead in NYC helicopter crash**

NEW YORK (AP) — A helicopter crashed into New York City's East River around sundown Sunday and flipped on its side, killing at least two people. A spokesman for the mayor's office, Eric Phillips, confirmed the fatalities on Twitter. At least one person was rescued from the water, he said. Authorities did not immediately say whether there were other people aboard.

China's Xi Jinping gets expanded mandate, may rule for life

BEIJING (AP) — Xi Jinping, already China's most powerful leader in more than a generation, received a vastly expanded mandate as lawmakers Sunday abolished presidential term limits that had been in place for more than 35 years and wrote his political philosophy into the country's constitution.

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.

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'LET US MARCH'

Gainesville students and residents march to protest gun violence

By **Shelbie Eakins**
Alligator Staff

Top Right: At a Saturday march for gun reform that lasted for about four hours, event organizers handed out maroon and silver ribbons to participants who wanted to express their support for the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School community.



Top Left: Paige Shrewsbury, a 15-year-old Buchholz High School sophomore, marched alongside other Buchholz High School students to advocate for gun reform. "I used to live in Miami, so this really hit close to home. Things definitely need to change. I want to get that point across to everybody," she said.

Bottom Right: Gavin Pinto, a 16-year-old Buchholz High School junior, gives instructions to demonstrators before the "Let Us March" event. Pinto and other Buchholz students organized the event in which people marched a little more than a mile from the Oaks Mall to Bucholz High School with some stops along the way.



Bottom Left: David Desautels, 81, marched alongside the students from Buchholtz High School at their "Let Us March" event Saturday afternoon. Desautels, the grandfather of a Buchholz student, was one of about 150 who attended the march, according to Gavin Pinto, an event organizer.

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Candidates for the District 1 city commission seat



Tyra Edwards

By Jessica Giles
Alligator Staff Writer

Tyra Edwards earned her nickname “Ty Loudd” for being a prominent voice of District 1. Now she wants to take that voice to the City Commission.

“It’s just what our people want to be,” she said. “They want to be loud, and so I’m loud.”

The 47-year-old single mother of two said she’s lived in Gainesville for the past 25 years.

In 2014, Edwards launched “Loudd Magazine,” an online publication about local musicians because she wanted to give them more media exposure, she said. She also held a series of forums called “Voices from the Trenches,” where District 1 residents gathered to talk about the state of their community.

Edwards feels that she would be the best representative of her district because she personally knows the struggles her community faces.

“I mirror the lives of the people who I am trying to help,” she said.

If elected, Edwards hopes to bring affordable housing, promote small businesses and create resource centers for residents to better themselves, she said. The centers would offer programs for adults to learn life skills as well as recreational programs to keep children engaged and off the streets.

Repairing the tense relationship between the District 1 residents and law enforcement is also a priority, Edwards said.

“We want the police to have a presence in our neighborhood not only when it’s time to arrest,” she said.

Edwards has dealt with criminal charges herself. In 2007, she was charged with unknowingly driving with a suspended license, according to court records. The case was resolved, and Edwards said she isn’t worried about the charge affecting her campaign.

Jessica Martini, Edwards’ campaign manager, believes Edwards is the only candidate who can bring about the radical change District 1 needs.

“Ty comes at it from a very different angle,” Martini said. “She’s not looking at it like a politician.”



Gigi Simmons

By Meryl Kornfield
Alligator Staff Writer

Gigi Simmons didn’t just want to be a single mother without an education. She wasn’t going to be a statistic.

At 33 years old, she graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in sociology. She raised two sons while she put herself through school after she realized she was a number in a system. Simmons is currently two credits away from earning a master’s in public administration at USF.

“She realized that there are people that can predict the outcome of where people like her and her sons will end up. It was an eye opener,” said Simmons’ campaign manager, Kristen Young.

Young said Simmons, now 45, has tried to make the best of a bad situation — in her life and community. She is running for City Commission District 1 to continue the change she has started to make in the area.

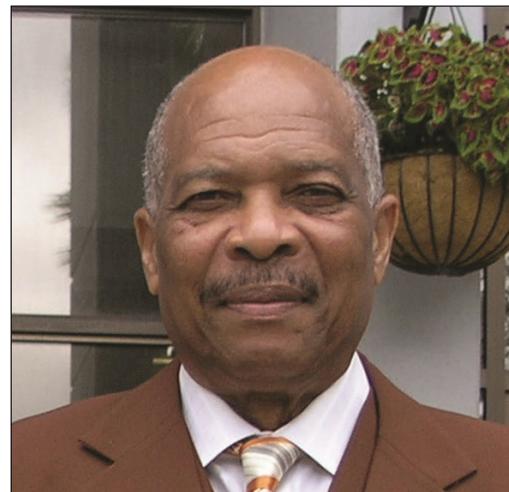
Before she became the president of Porters Community Neighborhood Crime Watch in 2011, crime rates in the area adjacent to Depot Park were at an all-time high. A year later, rates went down, and she was named a “Neighborhood Hero” by Gainesville Police. Simmons told the Gainesville Sun the crime rates were cut by more than half when she became president.

“It’s not something that I’ve done, it’s something we’ve done as a community,” she said.

Simmons has faced her own criminal charges. She was convicted of fraudulent use of a credit card, driving with a suspended license and theft in the 1990s and 2000s, according to court records. In 1993, she was charged with assault during a burglary and assault with a deadly weapon.

Young said Simmons has since changed her life for the better. Simmons started her own company, Simmons Tax Services, and has served on city boards.

“She shows that everyone can have a second chance,” Young said.



Charles Goston — incumbent

By Elliott Nasby
Alligator Staff Writer

Charles Goston doesn’t care if you remember his name in ten years — so long as the effect he had in Gainesville is everlasting.

The 69-year-old incumbent said he’s running to be re-elected as the District 1 city commissioner not to for the hype or recognition, but to further his work to uplift East Gainesville.

He graduated from UF with a journalism degree in 1999. He has run “The Black College Monthly,” a magazine, and hosted “Black College Football Today,” a local radio show.

Getting elected for his first term in 2015 allowed him to help the marginalized citizens of Gainesville, Goston said.

He said he negotiated a revised plan in 2016 with Gainesville Regional Utilities to stop the company from cutting off water and electricity to households that didn’t make payments on time or at all until the start of the business week.

Goston said he is amid negotiations with the fast-food chain Golden Corral to bring a new location east of Waldo Road, which is an area he said lacks food options.

“Now, the east side initiative is real, it’s tangible,” he said.

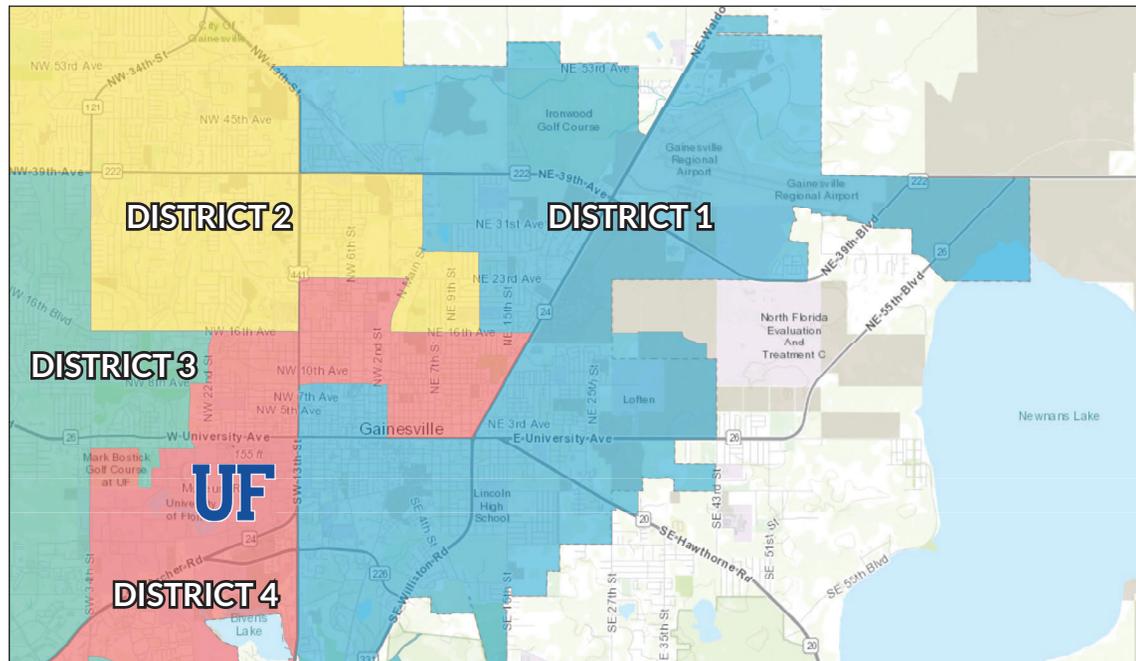
He said he has faced racial targeting by police. He was charged with driving with a suspended license multiple times in the 1970s and 1980s. Goston said those charges came while he was working two jobs to support his family and police stopped him for being a black man in a nicer-looking car.

Goston said he was also charged multiple times since the 1970s for writing worthless checks to pay for groceries to feed himself and his children.

Goston said he has since not had legal trouble in the last 20 years, and most of his past charges have been dropped.

Todd Chase, a former city commissioner for District 2, said Goston always reminded his peers of the human element in local politics, as well as represented marginalized people.

“We certainly debated over issues,” Chase said. “But in my time serving with him, he opened my mind and eyes at times to things that perhaps I couldn’t fully understand or appreciate.”



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION:

Election Day is March 20.
Polling locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

EARLY VOTING:

Early voting started last Saturday and will end this Saturday. Early voting locations are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Tuesday and Thursday, when voting locations are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS:

- SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE - 515 N. MAIN ST.
- MILLHOPPER BRANCH LIBRARY - 3145 NW 43RD ST.
- CONE PARK LIBRARY - 2801 E. UNIVERSITY AVE.

WHAT YOU NEED TO VOTE:

A form of identification with a picture and signature, such as: Florida Driver’s License, Florida ID Card, U.S. Passport, Debit or Credit Card, Military or Student ID, Public Assistance ID, etc.

Candidates for the At-Large commission seat



Harvey Budd – incumbent

By Robert Lewis
Alligator Staff Writer

tended the Levin College of Law for two years.

During his time at UF, Budd was The Alligator's accountant, he said.

Budd is a certified public accountant, which gives him financial insight and a better understanding of the city budget, he said.

Two and a half years ago, it was the messy finances of Gainesville Regional Utilities that inspired Budd to run for office.

"I wanted to stop the hemorrhaging," Budd said.

Budd addressed this by helping set up the Utility Advisory Board. It was one of his proudest accomplishments in his first term, he said.

In his second term, Budd wants to focus on creating affordable housing and reducing poverty in the city.

"In order to solve the disparity between East and West Gainesville, we have to solve affordable housing," Budd said.

Budd also wants to bring new businesses and developments to East Gainesville. He is currently working to bring a Wawa convenience store to the city and plans to create a shopping center on Northeast Eighth Avenue and Waldo Road, Budd said.

Gainesville native Ilene Silverman-Budd, Budd's wife of 35 years, remembers hugging her husband when he won the runoff election for his first term.

"That was a moment of pure joy," Silverman-Budd said.

Silverman-Budd said a second term would be an opportunity for Budd to serve the community by bringing together his years in business and knowledge of local government.

"I feel like he has a good understanding of this community," Silverman-Budd said.

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rlewis@alligator.org



Gail Johnson

By Amanda Rosa
Alligator Staff Writer

Politics wasn't on Gail Johnson's radar until the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

The 40-year-old single mother said after President Donald Trump was elected, she felt personally threatened by his agenda so she decided to work against it through local government. After serving on the Mayor's Citizens Advisory Board for Big Ideas and the Gainesville For All jobs and families committee in 2017, Johnson is running for the City Commission at-large seat.

As the owner of a catering business called delicious.delivered, Johnson hopes her perspective as a woman of color and working mother will move Gainesville forward.

"I don't have the luxury of not being tenacious in my life," she said. "Usually, if you're a woman and a woman of color, you need to work four times as hard to get twice as far."

Johnson, who graduated from UF with a degree in English in 2007, is passionate about economic inequality, which includes disparities in broadband internet access and

housing. If elected, she said she will work to implement inclusionary zoning, an affordable housing tool that sets aside a percentage of future residential developments for low-income families.

City Commissioners Adrian Hayes-Santos and Harvey Ward endorsed Johnson over their colleague running for re-election, Harvey Budd.

"I think she's a brilliant person, a self-made entrepreneur, a single mom," Ward said. "She represents things that we just don't have on the commission right now."

Growing up on the east side of Gainesville, Johnson was aware of the racial and economic inequity her neighborhood faced. Her grandfather helped implement single-member districts to increase African American representation in city government and county-wide observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Gainesville's schools and neighborhoods still face the same segregation Johnson saw as a teenager at Eastside High School. But she said she wants her 8-year-old daughter Zora to grow up in a city where everyone has the same opportunities to succeed.

Johnson was convicted for driving under the influence and property damage in 2007 and was sentenced to one year probation and 100 hours of community service, according to court records. She said she takes full responsibility for her actions and is glad nobody was hurt.

"I have learned from past mistakes, and now I'm focused on being the best mother I can be," she said.

Nkwanda Jah, the executive director of the Cultural Arts Coalition, met Johnson more than 35 years ago while doing activism work with Johnson's grandparents. She said leadership runs in Johnson's family.

"Gail would definitely make history," Jah said.

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Editorial

Adding more guns is not the solution

On Friday, Gov. Rick Scott met with the loved ones of the 17 people who were murdered in the Parkland school shooting last month. After these meetings in Tallahassee, Scott signed a law that will create stricter measures for gun purchases across the state.

The legislation, Senate Bill 7026, will allow only those 21 years or older to purchase firearms; require a three-day waiting period for firearm purchases (with some exceptions); ban the sale or possession of bump fire stocks; ban people deemed “mentally defective” or who have been committed to a mental institution from owning or possessing firearms until a court grants relief; let law enforcement officers ask a court to temporarily prohibit someone from possessing or buying firearms or ammunition if there is evidence the person poses a threat to themselves or others, and provide additional funding for armed school resource officers and mental health services.

The bill will also enact the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, which would allow some teachers to be armed if both the local school district and sheriff’s department agree. This portion of the bill is named for the coach who heroically lost his life after he shielded students with his own body during the Feb. 14 shooting.

According to NPR, the legislation has generated mixed feelings across the state and the country. Some people believe the bill is not doing enough to restrict gun laws, while other feel the bill is far too restrictive. In our opinion, although we are pleased with the steps taken, this bill is not restrictive enough.

The bill has regulations that are points of success, including the increased age restriction on buying guns and the banning of bump stocks were necessary. We are further pleased to see the bill will allow law enforcement officers to ask a court to temporarily prohibit someone from possessing or buying firearms or ammunition if there is evidence the person poses a threat to themselves or others and there will be increased funding for mental health services in schools.

However, we can’t say we feel as excited about the remainder of the legislation. We feel deeming members of society “mentally defective” is vague and will prove challenging when put into action. According to its definition by Florida statutes, a person can only be considered legally “mentally defective” if they have been labeled as such by the court. This means a person who may not be mentally fit to own a gun could still purchase one so long as they have not run into legal trouble in the past. As such, this point seems moot and could further lead to discrimination against the mentally ill, should gun sellers decide to label potential buyers on their own.

The most glaring issue with this bill is the idea of arming some teachers and faculty members. We recognize this will be restricted. For example, teachers who are primarily classroom teachers will not be able to carry a gun unless they have military or law enforcement training. The program is also voluntary, so no faculty members or teachers are required to carry a gun and those who are qualified and want to carry one must take 144 hours of training. However, we cannot get behind the idea of adding more firearms to solve the problems at hand.

We cannot fight firearms with more firearms, nor can we allow students to have an opportunity to be in the same space as firearms. Even if the owner of the gun is well trained, this does not stop a student from taking the gun and using it themselves.

Overall, we are pleased to see the state moving forward with gun control legislation, but there is much more work to be done if we really want to see an end to horrific mass shootings like the one at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Melissa Gomez EDITOR
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Column

We must continue our activism efforts on gun reform

Two facts. First, last week Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill raising the minimum age for purchasing rifles in Florida from 18 to 21. The bill also expanded the handgun waiting period to cover long guns, ban bump stocks and create a program allowing some school personnel to carry guns (I guess we can’t have it all).

Second, the National Rifle Association has already sued the Florida government to stop what it considers an “unconstitutional” law.

What does this tell us? Well, for starters, Scott can only make a good decision if he pairs it with a bad one. Also, if this wasn’t obvious before, the NRA doesn’t care about your safety, my safety, children’s safety, teachers’ safety ... All the NRA cares about is selling more guns.

It’s not all bad news, though. My biggest takeaway from last week’s decisions is this: Student-led activism works. If we listen when young people talk, our legislature can make progress toward common-sense gun control laws. We can enhance the safety of our schools and other public spaces. Education can nurture activism, and activism can nurture education.

This conclusion, however, comes with a few important caveats. We must add our voices to those who call on our elected officials to take action, through email, social media, phone calls and — arguably, most impactfully — our votes. The midterm elections are not as far away as they seem. The election isn’t until Nov. 6, but it’s never too early to ensure you’re registered to vote in your state and up-to-date on the issues at hand. Apathy and complacency helped get us where we are today, and I for one cannot stand to see our government led in part by an organization as conniving and ill-intentioned as the NRA. Can you?

We must also make certain we do not ignore the messages of other activists in our efforts to support some



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of them. For example, last week in Baltimore, Mayor Catherine Pugh announced the city would spend up to \$100,000 funding transportation for local students to attend the “March For Our Lives” protest for gun control in Washington, D.C.

Why? Because Baltimore students have been rallying against gun violence for much longer than news organizations have paid attention. The public often neglects the outcry from people in areas of lower socioeconomic status and students of minority backgrounds. This needs to change if we are going to enact real policy shifts to protect more people from gun violence.

It’s not just Baltimore, either. Take a look at Chicago, where students have yet to receive the same kind of media spotlight and still experience tragedy after tragedy when it comes to gun violence. We need to hear their voices, too, at the Washington, D.C., rally and beyond.

The students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School have amplified the gun safety movement, forcing the public and our politicians to confront an issue long pushed aside in the name of thoughts and prayers. Parkland activists have organized a protest around which other students can rally and express themselves. As supporters and listeners, we cannot forget about the students in places like Baltimore, Chicago and beyond who have been calling for this change for years.

Education can help inspire and fortify activism. But without activism, it seems as though we cannot have safe places for our education. At the end of the day, if our children, our students, our parents, our teachers and our friends aren’t safe — if we aren’t safe — what are we really doing here?

Mia Gettenberg is a UF criminology and philosophy senior. Her column focuses on education.

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

Column

Hostage situations happen in real life, not only in books and movies

This past Friday, four people died after a hostage situation emerged at a home for veterans just north of Napa, California.

A former resident of the home, who had been asked to leave earlier in the week, took three employees hostage, authorities said. According to CNN, the veteran who held the hostages had served in the Middle East and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. After the standoff dragged on throughout the day, the three victims and the shooter were all found dead.

Hostage situations may often seem larger-than-life or even fictitious. From books such as Ann Patchett's "Bel Canto" to films like "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," writers use these scenarios to heighten drama and move the story along. But people don't just take hostages in entertainment media. People are not only held against their will in dramatic scenes in books or movies.

From victims of kidnapping to prisoners of war, people are held captive in real life every day. They could be under threat of violence, the law or even death.

This, as I'm sure you can imagine, has a myriad of consequences for the mental health of those being held against their will. During their capture, victims likely feel a sense of helplessness. Their captor may not feed them, and even if they do, it is at the captor's discretion. The victim may be unable to shower or go outside. These small, everyday activities we take for granted are snatched away, and it could be for no reason other than they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

As a result, victims may develop a condition called Stockholm syndrome. This manifests as feelings of trust or affection felt by a victim toward their captor in a case of kidnapping or hostage-taking. Essentially, they begin to look at their captor as the one giving them life, not the one who is taking it away from them.

How could someone actually think



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this? Humans are predisposed as a species to make sense out of things that don't make sense to find a way to survive. What is to stop us from giving up if we have nothing to help us make sense of what is happening to us?

I'd like to touch on a specific hostage-type situation you may not have thought of in this manner previously: the Baker Act.

In 1971, a law was passed stating you can be admitted, detained and treated in the hospital against your will. This law, also called the Baker Act, is only acted on when authorities consider you a danger to yourself or others. This law is known as the Florida Mental Health Act of 1971. A similar act, called the Mental Health Act of 1983, exists in the United Kingdom.

The purpose of bringing this to your attention is to emphasize the way the process of involuntary and emergency psychiatric examinations can feel like being held hostage to someone who does not want treatment or who does not believe in it. People with mental illnesses who are taken into hospitals or crisis units against their will are not permitted to leave and are told where to go and what to do. They generally have no freedom. PTSD is a common condition to befall those who have been held hostage and, admittedly, this is not as likely if the patient is treated properly in the hospital. However, other effects, such as difficulty trusting others, anticipating danger, depression and anxiety can arise from this situation.

It is important to remember not everyone has the autonomy most of us do. Next time you consume media that discusses people being held hostage, stop and think about people who have really experienced this. Think about how far and deep the mental health implications run.

Taylor Cavaliere is a UF journalism and psychology junior. Her column focuses on mental health.

Column

Women of color are fundamental to feminism, which is for all women

As you scrolled through social media Thursday, you probably noticed a post here and there about someone's mother, sister or best friend. The post likely acknowledged their strength, beauty or any of their characteristics.

That's because March 8 marked International Women's Day. Although many discovered this holiday the day of, the celebration dates back to 1908 with the Women's Labour Movement. Back then, 15,000 women marched through the streets of New York City demanding shorter working hours, higher wages and the right to vote. One year later, the day was established as a national holiday and declared an international holiday a few years after.

International Women's Day is rooted in a movement for women's rights. Although the title declares itself to be all-inclusive, women of color continuously accuse feminist movements of leaving them out. When women try to rectify the situation and ask how to be better inclusive of women of color in feminist movements, they fail to realize they are asking the wrong question.

Feminism for women of color is more complex because there are more intersections and they face different situations of gender oppression due to their race. Rather than focusing on inclusivity, women should be focusing on centering the movements on all types of women. Women of color should not be included as an afterthought but integrated into the conversation from the very beginning.

In addition to International Women's Day, the recent #MeToo movement has allowed women all across the spectrum to unite. The #MeToo movement started in an effort to create solidarity among young women against sexual assault. Despite the increased unity, women of color are still being blindsided.

Women of color must fight twice as hard for their rights because of the extra obstacles they face due to race and can be



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left behind. Time magazine published an issue on the #MeToo movement and displayed some of its "silence breakers" on the cover but left out their black founder, Tarana Burke. Burke founded the campaign 10 years ago, but it did not go viral until Alyssa Milano tweeted about it recently.

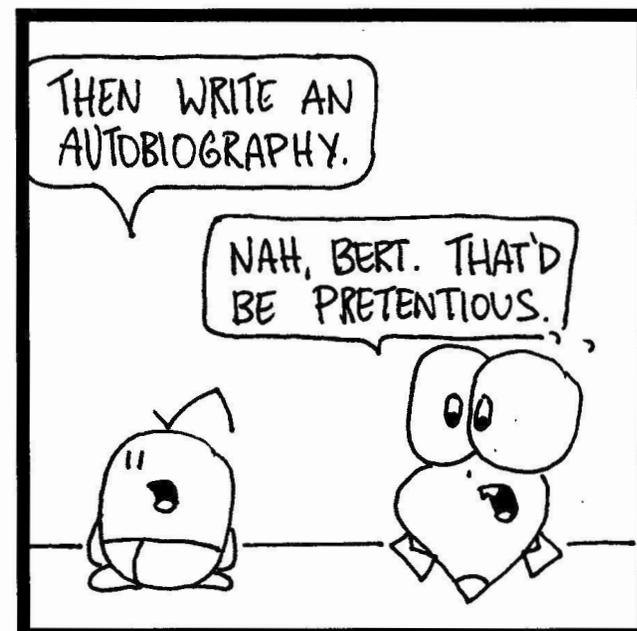
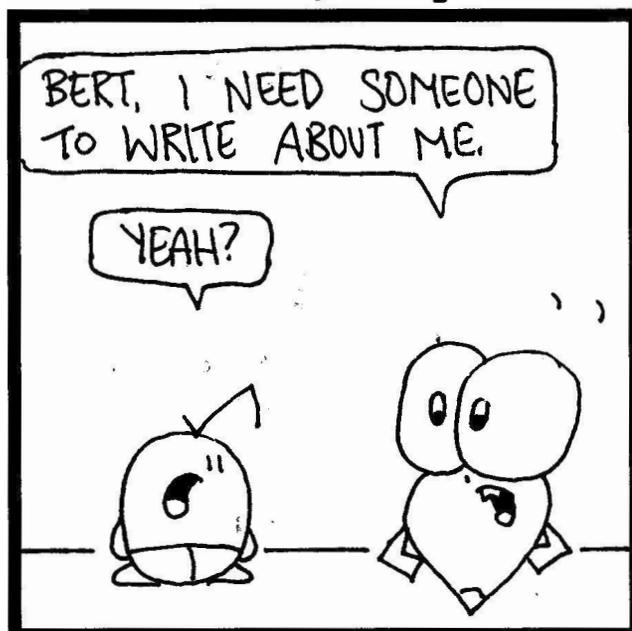
Women of color have been facing exclusion from feminism for years. It is not a new issue. The earliest feminist movements acknowledged by society did not include women of color in the slightest. The Suffrage Movement fought for women's right to vote but did not try to include women of color; this led to Sojourner Truth to take the podium and give her famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech. Truth's speech reminded the women of the Suffrage Movement to save her a seat at the table and to not exclude black women from their fight for equal rights. Her words still resonate today and inspire women of color to remain steadfast in their fight for gender equality. Women of color are fundamental to feminism and have been fighting for women's values before society even conceptualized feminism.

Many women are still wary to declare themselves feminists and hold back in fear of a loaded word. They fear being associated with radical actions such as burning your bra or being labeled a "man hater." Regardless of race, to declare yourself a feminist takes courage and perseverance. Many people still believe in traditional gender roles, and see nothing wrong with gender dynamics as they now are. Yet feminist movements have made great strides and have started the conversation for gender equality. But, there is still more work to be done. Feminism is a movement started by women, for women, and all women should feel equally included.

Madisyn Jones is a UF accounting sophomore. Her column focuses on black culture.

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By Michael Smith



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UF researchers find way to possibly reduce harmful algae

By Jonathan Griffin
Alligator Contributing Writer

After 17 years, researchers from UF and the Palatka-based St. Johns River Water Management District may have found a new way to decrease populations of algae that are harmful for plants and animals in water.

The research team studied Lake George, a central Florida lake, from

1993 to 2010 in a project that received more than \$2 million from various grants, said Edward J. Philips, a UF fisheries and aquatic sciences professor who worked on the project.

A study published online Feb. 24 in a journal called Environmental Science and Technology suggests reducing the amount of two nutrients essential to the growth of

algae in Lake George and similar bodies of water might control the harmful algae populations, Philips said. The two nutrients are phosphorus and nitrogen. One of the ways these could be reduced is by controlling the use of fertilizers.

Researchers studied a specific group of algae called cyanobacteria, which sometimes produces toxins that harm aquatic animals

and plants.

Researchers collected measurements including algae counts and water temperatures. The dataset was analyzed by a team led by Rafael Muñoz-Carpena, a UF agricultural and biological engineering professor.

"We looked at all these different components of the (lake)," Muñoz-Carpena said.

Philips said the water management district might use the study's results to develop strategies to better manage populations of harmful algae.

"We want to, as part of the continuing research on the lake, to evaluate whether what they've been doing has led to success and getting the outputs that we think they should," Philips said.

UF ranked as a top school with Peace Corps volunteers

By Valentina Pinzon
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF was recently ranked as one of the top schools with Peace Corps volunteers.

The Peace Corps, a volunteer program run by the U.S. government, released its 2018 list of the top volunteer-producing colleges and universities Feb. 20. The list was divided into categories based on the number of undergraduate students. UF ranked No. 5 in the large colleges section, which included 25 schools with more than 15,000 undergraduate students.

Judging for the list is solely based on the number of people a university sends out, said Breton Homewood, the UF Peace Corps campus recruiter. Sixty-eight UF students are currently serving as volunteers worldwide, which is 10 more students than 2017. The top large school was the University of Wisconsin-Madison with 85 volunteers.

UF has been ranked in the top five for eight consecutive years, Homewood, 33, said. However, Homewood said the competition with other colleges has increased over the years.

This year, the university ranking above UF, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is only ahead by two volunteers. The only two other Florida universities on the list are the University of South Florida, which ranked No.

19, and Florida State University, which ranked No. 25.

It's competitive to get into the Peace Corps program, Homewood said. Most applicants need a college education or 10 years of career experience to get in.

"To be in the top anything on a list like that is awesome," Homewood said. "It tells me a lot about Gainesville. I think it really speaks to the University of Florida and people's commitment to serve just says a lot about our community."

Students who walk into Homewood's office and show interest usually get accepted, he said. The Peace Corp Prep program, which helps to prepare UF students for volunteering, gives UF students an advantage.

Douglas Steinbach, a 23-year-old UF mechanical engineering senior, said he's graduating this semester and then moving in June to volunteer for the Peace Corps. He will be teaching math in Sierra Leone in West Africa.

Steinbach said he's unsure if UF got the high ranking because students like the specific volunteering experience or because they're hard workers.

"Maybe it says that a lot of people dislike where they're going with their life so they just want to take a break and learn about themselves," he said, "Or maybe it's a good thing because UF produces hard workers."

Gainesville City Commission passes gun reform resolution

By Jessica Curbelo
Alligator Contributing Writer

Laura Uribe won't forget her high school sister's text about the rumor of a school shooter in May.

Her sister huddled in a closet while on lockdown at J.P. Taravella High School as Uribe kept getting messages from her friends and former art teacher.

After hours of waiting, no one was hurt, and the occurrence ended as a gun scare.

"It's the fear of not knowing," the UF political science junior said.

Only nine months later and about five miles away from her sister's high school, a mass shooting occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Uribe, 20, said she knew she had to make a change. She helped raise awareness and bring people to a Gainesville City Commission meeting on March 1 to watch a vote on a gun reform resolution. It recognized gun violence as a public health and safety emergency. It passed unanimously.

"I wasn't heavily invested in gun re-

form when I was in high school," Uribe said. "I think it's a by-product of tragedy. People step up."

The resolution will be a part of Gainesville's official records, and a synopsis will be mailed to members of Florida's legislature, Commissioner Harvey Ward said.

The city commission worked together to revise the resolution and added points such as opposition against arming teachers, Ward said.

"This letter says that we're watching, and we have expectations," said Ward, the commissioner of District 2. "If they don't do something, then we'll know where they stand."

Ward, 50, drafted the resolution, which has no legal standing, as he tried to find some way to respond to the shooting in Parkland, which took 17 lives Feb. 14. Local government in Florida is restricted from passing gun reforms because of Florida Statute 790.33.

"I have had concerns about guns for a long time," he said. "I've been sick about it since Sandy Hook. I'm happy we, as a society, are ready to make a change."

UF researcher uses mosquitoes to track Burmese pythons

By Wyatt Schreiber
Alligator Contributing Writer

Lawrence E. Reeves used to spend his mornings in a Gainesville enclosure with a handheld vacuum in one hand and a piece of cardboard in the other.

He had to be working before the sun's heat loosened the handmade traps he used to catch his blood-sucking friends, the 35-year-old said.

Part of his morning routine two years ago was checking the cylindrical traps made out of wire fencing and a garbage bag, and shaking each one like dice in a Yahtzee cup to wake up the mosquitoes buzzing within.

Reeves studied their DNA to see if Florida mosquitoes bit invasive Burmese pythons. For his research, which was published Jan. 17, he captured mosquitoes to see if they had fed on pythons in the area. That information would tell him whether or not pythons were in the area to track

the species' location.

Reeves conducted this experiment from the end of 2015 to the end of 2016. By tracking where mosquitoes bite the snakes, he could find where they were living in the Everglades.

"The python populations are expanding northward," said Reeves, "so going into the future, it's going to be really important to monitor their spread and determine where they occur."

The brown snakes arrived in the Florida wilderness prior to the 1980s by pet owners releasing them into the wild, Reeves said. The invasive species decimated local animals by preying on them.

For example, pythons have reduced raccoon populations so much that turtle and alligator eggs, a main food source for raccoons, are have higher survival rates, he said.

Reeves said it's hard to determine an estimate of how many pythons are in the Everglades because they're hard to find.

"There's definitely at least 10," he said. "But people generally agree that there's a very large number."

Jennifer L. Gillett-Kaufman, a UF associate extension scientist and one of Reeves' supervisors, said she discussed the idea with him and helped lay out a timeline to complete the work for his doctorate. Seven members tackled the project with a team approach, she said.

"The coolest part to me was really being able to come up with something that would showcase to the public how important it is to monitor and manage for invasive species," she said.

Now as a postdoctoral researcher at UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' Florida Medical Entomology Lab in Vero Beach, Reeves is putting his research to the test in the Everglades. He said he's collected about 1,000 mosquitoes so far.

"We're processing to figure out what animals they've been feeding on," he said.



Courtesy to The Alligator

Lawrence E. Reeves, 35, spent a little more than a year in a controlled studying the DNA of Florida mosquitoes to see if they bit invasive Burmese pythons. He's now a postdoctoral researcher at UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' Florida Medical Entomology Lab in Vero Beach, Florida, where he is testing his research in the Everglades.

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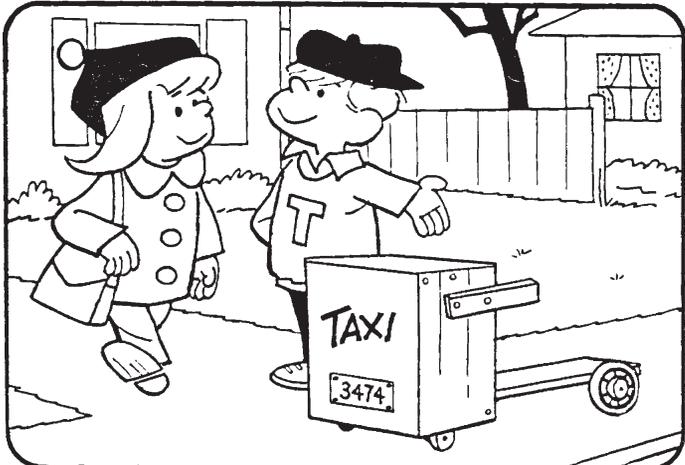


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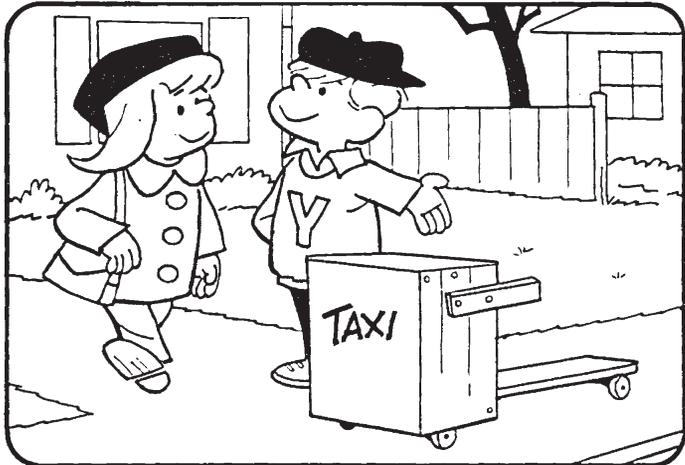
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

GATORS GOING DANCING: UF nabs No. 6 seed for NCAA Tourney

By Jake Dreilinger
Sports Writer

While most college basketball teams gathered around a television set, anxiously waiting to hear if they made the cut for the NCAA Tournament, the Gators were stuck inside an airplane on a St. Louis runway.

Florida guard Egor Koulechov's tweet confirmed it, as he believed Florida would have to wait until it landed in Gainesville to find out its fate.

With their flight still delayed, however, the Gators found out in real time who they would be facing first.

For the second consecutive year, the Florida men's basketball team has made the NCAA Tournament, this time as a No. 6 seed. The Gators will play the winner of a First Four game between No. 11 seeds St. Bonaventure and UCLA in Dallas on Thursday in the East region of the bracket.

"We're excited to compete in the NCAA Tournament again, which is one of the most unique and special events in all of sports," Florida coach Mike White said.

The winner of that matchup will face the winner of No. 3-seed Texas Tech and No. 14-seed Stephen F. Austin in the second round on Saturday.

The Gators are coming off an 80-

72 loss in the SEC Tournament quarterfinals to Arkansas on Friday, their only game of postseason play thus far.

This is Florida's second appearance in the NCAA Tournament under White and its 19th overall.

With the NCAA bid, White became the first coach in UF history to earn a bid in two of his first three seasons. He is one of two active SEC coaches to accomplish this.

Last year, the Gators defeated East Tennessee State 80-65 in the first round of the tournament before beating Virginia 65-39 in the second

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 16



Dylan Dixon / Alligator Staff

Chris Chiozza (11) and the Gators men's basketball team are heading to Dallas for the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Thursday.

The Madness Begins

Who: Florida (20-12) vs. St. Bonaventure (25-7) / UCLA (21-11)

What: First Round of 2018 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament

When: Thursday at 9:57 p.m.

Where: American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas

TV: TruTV

TRACK

Florida wins fourth indoor championship, first since 2012

By Alanis Thames
Sports Writer

Grant Holloway stared at the NCAA trophy in his hands as his teammates jumped into each other's arms.

Red, white and blue confetti cascaded all around them.

This feeling of triumph was special for the Gators men's track and field team.

It was a feeling it had just missed out on a year ago when it took runner up to Texas A&M by half a point.

Coach Mike Holloway and his athletes had trained the entire season to experience that moment.

All of the long hours spent jumping into sand pits and leaping over 45-inch hurdles had culminated into this moment of pure emotion after the final NCAA race.

The stakes were high on Saturday in

College Station, Texas, as the 2018 NCAA Indoor Championships were drawing to an end.

UF's top athletes did what they'd done all season. They came up with clutch performances when it mattered most, including a first-place finish in the 60-meter hurdles and runner-up finish in the triple jump to clinch an indoor national title for the first time since 2012.

Holloway, in his 16th season as Florida's head coach, has instilled a special sense of belief in his athletes all year.

They believe in their talents. They trust that execution will breed success. They don't try to control the intangibles.

"I love my guys," Holloway said in a release. "I'm glad they're on my team."

That philosophy has seemed to work for the 2018 NCAA indoor national champions.

SEE TRACK, PAGE 16

Morgan Meets the Eye / Opinion

Derrius Guice's question is an indictment of bigoted NFL fans

If you've kept up with the NFL Combine or anything surrounding it in the past couple of weeks, you may have heard LSU running back Derrius Guice spill some tea on an unidentified team after one of its scouts asked Guice a pointed question in a private interview.

"Do you like men?"

The inquiry may not have been made in as few words, but that's what it amounted to.

In 2013, former NFL spokesman Greg Aiello went on record after a similar question was asked of former Colorado tight end Nick Kasa.

"There are specific protections in our Collective Bargaining Agreement with the players that prohibit discrimination against any player, including on the basis of sexual

orientation," Aiello said.

Guice's case wasn't the first instance of this, and I'd bet top dollar it won't be the last.

Yes, the question is illegal to ask any potential employee. Yes, the question is deeply homophobic. Yes, the interviewer ought to be fired and the organization he works for

finned and punished further.

But what motivated the question in the first place?

In 2014, former Missouri defensive end Michael Sam became the first openly gay man drafted by an NFL team when he went in the seventh round to St. Louis. While he didn't make the final roster, the fact that he got to that point proves it can be done.

So why does a team ask an illegal ques-

SEE COLUMN, PAGE 16



Morgan McMullen
Twitter: @MorganMcMuffin



Led by sophomore Sierra Brooks, the Florida women's golf team won the SunTrust Gator Invitational on Sunday.

Florida tennis teams defeat SEC foes

The Gators men's tennis team defeated Auburn 6-1 on the road on Sunday, while the UF women's tennis team swept Texas A&M 4-0 in Gainesville.

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BASEBALL

After walk-off win, Gators set sights on 'Noles, SEC schedule



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

Freshman pitcher Jordan Butler came up with a pinch-hit single in the bottom of the ninth inning against Rhode Island to secure a walk-off victory.

By Justin Ahlum

Sports Writer

When Jordan Butler hit a ground-er to the right side of the infield that scored Deacon Liput for the game-winning run, the freshman was mobbed by his teammates down the first-base line.

Butler had been called on to pinch hit moments prior by coach Kevin O'Sullivan. The Tampa native took full advantage, smacking a walk-off single to help Florida defeat Rhode Island 3-2 on Saturday and complete its third weekend sweep of 2018.

"It was like nothing I've experienced before," Butler said. "I haven't really done anything here to get the crowd cheering like that. It was awesome."

Now, the No. 1 Gators (15-3) will prepare for their first matchup against No. 4 Florida State (14-2) this season — a game scheduled for Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Gainesville.

As for Butler, a two-way player, he hasn't pitched since Wednesday when he picked up the first loss of his Gator career. The freshman went five innings against the UCF Knights, giving up two runs on three hits during the game.

"I thought he threw the ball good," O'Sullivan said of Butler.

Now, with plenty of rest for his arm and six days in between pitching appearances, it's a possibility that the young righty will be on the hill against Florida's first top-five opponent of the 2018 season.

But Tuesday won't be a cakewalk for the Gators regardless of who's on the mound. FSU comes into the contest with a .419 on-base percentage and has a pitching staff that is arguably as stellar as the Gators', posting a 2.59 ERA.

However, the Seminoles enter Tuesday's game against Florida having lost their previous two games at the hands of Wake Forest.

FSU was on the opposite end of a walk-off on Saturday, losing 4-3 to the Demon Deacons in the bottom of the ninth. Wake Forest then blew out FSU 8-1 on Sunday.

After Tuesday's matchup against the Seminoles, the schedule intensifies for Florida as it opens SEC play. UF will travel to Columbia, South Carolina, later in the week to open a three-game series starting Friday at 7 p.m.

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GYMNASTICS

Florida ends regular season on McMurtry's record night

By Alana Gomez

Sports Writer

The Florida gymnasts were silent as they took their seats in front of the post-meet press conference Friday night. It wasn't the attitude of a team that had just ended its last home competition with its second-highest meet total of the season. A somber mood settled over the room like a wet blanket.

Senior Alex McMurtry dominated in No. 5 UF's 197.925-196.700 win over Nebraska. She took all five event titles on the night. However, the team was more focused on what Friday's meet marked the end of.

The victory fell on the Gators' Senior Night, when the team celebrated the careers of McMurtry, Kennedy Baker, Grace McLaughlin and Rachel Slocum.

"It is the meet that is the most emotional over the course of the entire season," coach Jenny Rowland said in a release. "It was a great finish to the regular season."

Motivated by the bittersweet knowledge that it was the last home meet of her collegiate career, McMurtry kept her composure to end the night with a win in all five events. Her achievement stands alongside Ashanee Dickerson, the last Gator to claim each event title at LSU in 2011.

"I was lucky enough, and I was prepared enough to put on a show in every event," McMurtry said. "That's the note you wanna end on."

McMurtry's top scores against Nebraska (11-3, 5-0 Big Ten) included an

all-around win of 39.825, equaling UF's all-around record set by Alaina Johnson and Bridget Sloan in 2014. It was only McMurtry's third time competing in the all-around this year, as a lingering back injury kept her off the floor event for most of the season. The 15-time All-American showed she hadn't missed a step when she equaled her highest floor score on the season at 9.925, locking in her last two titles of the night.

McMurtry has made a significant impact on Gators gymnastics in her career at UF. In four short years she has scored a 10.0 in each event and earned SEC Gymnast of the Year honors in 2017. Her perseverance and excellence throughout each season are traits Rowland will miss as she says goodbye to McMurtry and her fellow seniors.

"Alex talked about being able to touch people's lives," Rowland said. "I am not the same person (after) working with this team this year. Really, this team is better together."

In a meet that celebrated the achievements of its seniors, the night was also highlighted by freshman Jazmyn Foberg. Foberg placed third in vault and second in bars with collegiate bests of 9.990 and 9.950, respectively. Five Gators posted 10 collegiate or season bests, a confidence booster for Florida (8-2, 5-2 SEC) as it prepares for the SEC Championships on March 24.

"I needed that confidence going into postseason," McMurtry said. "We still have a lot in us."

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SOFTBALL

UF sweeps No. 23 Kentucky in conference-opening series

By Mark Stine

Sports Writer

The UF softball team took the field on Sunday without one of its senior leaders and the walk-off hero from Saturday night's thriller against Kentucky.

First baseman Kayli Kvistad sat out with the flu as normal catcher Janell Wheaton filled in and marshaled the Gators' defense behind ace Kelly Barnhill, who pitched in her second outing of the weekend after no-hitting the Wildcats Friday night.

"They were just working really hard behind me today," Barnhill said. "(Kentucky) did a really good job making adjustments from Friday, they put the bunts down, but it didn't end up hurting us in the end."

No. 2 Florida (22-1, 3-0 SEC) completed the sweep of the No. 23 Wildcats (15-6, 0-3 SEC) in the weekend series and took a 4-0 victory at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium.

The junior came back with another complete-game shutout. She captured her 11th win of the year and struck out nine, allowing only five base runners all afternoon.

Stellar defense behind Barnhill (11-0) kept Kentucky off the scoreboard when it got players on.

Left fielder Amanda Lorenz ran down a fly ball in foul territory in the second inning. She kept the ball from sailing over the wall and stole an out for her pitcher.

"It was really cool to see that hard work paying off because we work on that all the time (in practice)," Lorenz said. "I think that was more exciting for me than any home run I've hit."

After Barnhill gave up her only walk of the day with one out in the top of the fifth, catcher Jordan Roberts caught UK's Lauren Johnson stealing to clear up the bases.

With one out and a runner on first in the sixth, it appeared Kentucky second baseman Alex Martens had a hit up the middle. But UF shortstop Sophia Reynoso came out of nowhere to scoop up the ball, step on second and fire to Wheaton at first for an outstanding double play.

UF faced off with Kentucky pitcher Autumn Humes for the second time in the three-game series as well, and for the second time, the Gators jumped on Humes early.

Second baseman Hannah Adams led off the game with a walk, her seventh leadoff base on balls this season. Third baseman Nicole DeWitt followed with a sacrifice bunt to advance the freshman to second and put her in scoring position. With two outs, cleanup hitter Jordan Matthews dropped a bloop just inside the left-field line. Adams scored from second and gave the Gators a first-inning lead for the 16th game this season.

Florida zeroed in on Humes again in the bottom of the third.

Adams and center fielder Alex Voss started the frame with back-to-back strikeouts, but DeWitt sparked a Gator attack with a double to center field that just caught the top of the wall.

Then, Lorenz launched a 2-1 pitch to the opposite field, knocking the bright yellow ball off the top of the scoreboard in left-center field and rounding the bases to give UF a three-run lead.

Reynoso also contributed offensively in the bottom of the inning with runners on the corners.

With one out and a 2-2 count, she laid down a sacrifice squeeze bunt, scoring pinch runner Haven Sampson and capping off the contest.

"Just getting another win in the SEC is a big deal. Just getting a sweep in this league is hard to do," Lorenz said. "We're just excited about that, going to carry the momentum in practice and focus on the next game coming up."

Grant Holloway becomes fifth man to successfully defend NCAA title

TRACK, from pg. 14

It's what has garnered the program eight combined indoor and outdoor national titles since 2010 — a total that leads all of Division I during that span.

The Gators have also joined Arkansas, UTEP and Oregon as the fourth Division I men's program to capture at least four NCAA indoor titles.

That outlook is why Holloway has become the fourth men's track coach in Division I history with at least four indoor and four outdoor national titles.

It's why 60-meter hurdles record holder Grant Holloway became the fifth man in history to successfully defend his NCAA title.

That's what fueled KeAndre Bates and Clayton Brown to earn 13 big points in the men's triple jump to put their team in position to win the national title.

Bates came back from a disappointing SEC Championship performance to post a season-best mark in the triple jump at nationals.

"He's a Gator great. That's all there is to it," Holloway said. "He will go down as one of the best jumpers in the history of our school."

@alanisthames
athames@alligator.org



Courtesy of UAA Communications

The Florida men's track and field team won its fourth indoor national championship Saturday in College Station, Texas. Grant Holloway posted a time of 7.47 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles while posting a second-place finish in the long jump.

COLUMN, from pg. 14

tion such as this?

In short, it's because of the fanbase.

NFL fans as a whole are still the farthest away from realizing equality on the field. Some of the old folks who still cling to images of Joe Namath running off the field after a potentially rigged Super Bowl would have a conniption if they saw their team taking a gay player.

Heck, when players started taking knees en masse during the national anthem, I'm sure those same folks were quick to record a Blair Witch-style montage video of them burning their team's merchandise, complete with frantic rambling about how the team doesn't respect

veterans.

This isn't to say that a solid majority of NFL fans would care about a gay football player being drafted. Heck, Sam's jersey became the second-best selling rookie jersey behind Johnny Manziel that year.

However, the lost profit from the fans on the other side of the fence of decency makes Derrius Guice's question an enticing one for a team. It becomes less, "Do you like men?" and more, "Will any aspect of your life alienate even our most bigoted supporters?" But it's still disgusting, immoral and illegal no matter how it's spun.

Morgan McMullen is the Alligator's online sports editor. Contact him at mcmullen@alligator.org

Mike White: "I'm happy for our team to have this opportunity."

BASKETBALL, from pg. 14

round. In the Sweet 16, guard Chris Chiozza's buzzer-beating three-pointer propelled the Gators past Wisconsin 84-83. Florida eventually fell to South Carolina 77-70 on March 26 in the Elite Eight.

Florida will now turn its attention to avoiding a first-round loss, which would be its first since 2010 when it lost to BYU in double-overtime 99-92.

But for White, he's happy his team earned the opportunity to play in the tournament. Be-

fore the Tennessee game on Feb. 21, White stated that at the level Florida was playing, there was a chance it could play in the NCAA Tournament or be NIT-bound.

"I'm happy for our team to have this opportunity," White said. "We obviously have two really good potential opponents to start preparing for."

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