



FEATURE FRIDAY:

'How long before I die?'

After Parkland, Gainesville students question what happens next

By Jessica Giles
Alligator Staff Writer

When Catherine Sarosi used to hear a fire alarm at school, she'd grab her things, roll her eyes and trek to her assigned location while her classmates groaned at the inconvenience.

Now, she hesitates.

Ever since Feb. 14, when a 19-year-old opened fire at Marjory

Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killing 17 and wounding 17 more, there's a sense of paranoia at her East Gainesville school, said Sarosi, a senior. Students seem jumpy and whisper about worst case scenarios.

The shooting was too close to home for some Alachua County Public School students. As politicians debate gun control and school safety, Sarosi and her class-

mates live in fear they'll be next.

So when the fire alarm went off unexpectedly at Eastside High School about a week after the Parkland shooting, no one moved.

In her history class, the 24 students sat frozen, exchanging nervous glances and looking expectantly at their teacher. For a minute, everybody held their breath while the alarm blared. Something that was once routine was no longer

trusted, Sarosi said.

Sarosi, 18, said she immediately thought of Parkland, where the gunman had pulled the fire alarm, sending students pouring into the hallway.

The principal announced the alarm was tripped by mistake, she said. They exhaled.

• • •

Ever since the Parkland shooting, Bailey McIntyre looks for the

nearest exit when she enters a classroom. For the first time in her life, the Eastside High School senior understands the threat of a shooter.

"It's always sat in the back of my head, but it never clicked with me until now," the 17-year-old said.

Lunchtime conversations shifted from weekend trips and homework assignments to what they'd

SEE FEATURE, PAGE 13



The Associated Press

Florida guard Egor Koulechov scored a team-high 20 points in Florida's 77-62 win over St. Bonaventure on Thursday in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

UF bounces Bonnies in first round of NCAA Tournament

By Benjamin Brandt
Sports Writer

No bizarre buzzer-beaters or cunning second-half comebacks maddened the nightcap action at American Airlines Arena on Thursday in Dallas.

Sixth-seeded Florida (21-12) ousted 11th-seeded St. Bonaventure (26-8) in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Behind forward Egor Koulechov's 20 points and six rebounds, the Gators ran away with a second-half lead and secured a 77-62 victory.

Koulechov and guard Jalen Hudson – who combined to shoot 20 percent from the field in last week's 80-72 loss to Arkansas in the SEC Tournament – piloted Florida's scoring effort while St. Bonaventure's stars broke down. UF contained the Bonnies' dangerous backcourt duo of Jaylen Adams and Matt Mobley to a combined 5-of-19 shooting on the night.

The Gators missed their first three attempts from the three-point line before Koulechov connected from the baseline with 15:45 left in the opening half. On the ensuing possession, Koulechov threw up an off-balance three and missed, contributing to Florida's 3-of-10 start from the field.

In UF's good fortune, the Bonnies were off the mark on their first seven three-point attempts. A pair of threes from Florida forward Keith Stone helped UF build a 20-9 advantage with fewer than 11 minutes remaining before half-time.

But as quickly as the Gators found their rhythm, they lost it.

St. Bonaventure went on a 13-1 run during which Florida missed 13 straight shots. With just over three minutes remaining in the frame, St. Bonaventure led 22-21.

Although they worked back to a 27-22

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 13

UF official: UF's School of Music to replace Leonardo's

By Amanda Rosa
Alligator Staff Writer

UF will replace Leonardo's Pizza By the Slice with a new School of Music.

UF spokesperson Margot Winick wrote in an email the roughly 120,000-square foot building will include a recital hall and parking space. The construction date is to be determined, and she does not know when Leonardo's will close.

The restaurant remains open for business. Winick said UF already renewed Leonardo's lease for another year and might renegotiate to extend it again.

"We at UF are all big fans of Leonardo's Pizza," she said.

The UF Foundation bought the restaurant, located at 1245 W. University Ave., in August 2016, according to Alligator archives. UF also owns Kangaroo Express gas station next to the restaurant.

The School of Music is estimated to cost \$55 million, Winick said. UF secured \$6 million from last year's state legislative session and will seek more funding. The current music building will likely be repurposed for faculty offices or UF programs, she said.

Although he doesn't want to see his favorite pizza place go, UF School of Music director Kevin Orr is excited for the new building.

Orr said this location will make the school's free concerts more accessible to the

Gainesville community. The current music building, which opened in 1971, has inefficient air-conditioning and heating systems, he said.

"That's terrible for the millions of dollars worth of instruments inside this building," Orr said.

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FAMILY, FAITH AND BASEBALL

Andrew Baker evolved from a little league novice to a two-way player on UF's baseball team, pg. 19

Fuchs pledges Dance Marathon donation

He will match up to \$10,000 in donations, pg. 5.

Sean Kingston to headline Big Orange Fest

Find out when he will perform and how to see him, pg. 4.

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Today's Weather



AM



NOON



PM

HIGH 75° LOW 45°

Local Events / News in Brief

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Student Government Spring Housing Fair

Student Government's Spring Housing Fair is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday on the 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 from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday on the colonnade outside Library West. 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.

GatorNights Classic Movies

The Reitz Union will hold a GatorNights Classic Movies on Friday. The event will feature "James Bond" and "Indiana Jones" escape rooms, a "Jaws" mechanical shark and "Jurassic Park" terrariums. "The Shape of Water" will play at 8 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. The Club Creole's Fashion Show and Concert will take place in the Rion Ballroom starting at 8 p.m. GatorNights is always Friday and always free for UF students with a Gator 1 Card at the Reitz Union from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Attendees must be current students to participate and are allowed to bring a maximum of one guest to the event.

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 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

at the Florida Museum of Natural History, located at 3215 Hull Road. Attendees will watch demonstrations of volcanic eruptions, as well as experience an augmented reality sandbox and fossil dig. 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.

Gainesville City elections

Early voting for the 2018 City of Gainesville Regular Election ends Saturday. Locations, which will open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., are Cone Park Library, located at 2801 East University Ave., Millhopper Branch Library, located at 3145 NW 43rd St., and the Supervisor of Elections Office, located at 515 N. Main St.

'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 6:00 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 352-334-3900.

Talking Gators Toastmasters

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



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

sclubs.org/.

Experience Sikhism

The UF Sikh Students Association will host Turban Day event at Turlington Plaza from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 21. The event aims to make UF students aware about Sikhism, a monotheistic religion. As part of the event, the members of Sikh Students Association will help tie turbans around students' heads. A turban represents commitment to faith and identity for the Sikhs.

Fulbright Awareness Month

The UF International Center will hold Fulbright Awareness Month until 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. 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. To schedule an individual consultation with VanDerwater, email canumba@ufic.ufl.edu. For more information, visit internationalcenter.ufl.edu and search under Faculty Engagement and Global Learning.

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.

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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on University & 13th.

Lighting across UF to be updated

By Elliott Nasby

Alligator Staff Writer

UF's campus is getting brighter.

UF Facility Services is updating 500 campus light fixtures with light-emitting diode, or LED, technology to increase campus safety, the Board of Trustees discussed in a meeting Thursday. These lights are more energy efficient than traditional bulbs.

Curtis Reynolds, UF's Vice President for Business Affairs, said UF hired safety consulting firm Moses and Associates a year ago to identify 12 zones in need of enhanced lighting for students walking around at night. About 30 percent of the light updates have already happened, with an expected completion date in July.

"Crime likes the dark, and if there's no dark, then there's no crime," Reynolds said.

The total cost of installation will be about \$1.5 million, he said.

Once updated, light poles across campus will also be

compatible with new surveillance technology, including audio, video and WiFi, he said.

Bianca Poma, a UF biology sophomore, thinks the brighter lights will bring relief for many students.

When walking home from Library West to Beaty Towers late at night her freshman year, Poma said she would use the flashlight on her phone to light the pitch-dark paths.

"It's really helpful," the 19-year-old said. "Especially for me as a girl, and I'm really tiny."

The board also discussed current construction projects on campus, including a groundbreaking ceremony for Norman Hall at 2 p.m. March 23 outside the building.

On March 22 and 23, the trustees will discuss next year's budget for parking and transportation services, UF's strategic energy plan and how Bright Futures changes will affect the university's budget, among other items.

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Faculty Senate to present OPS resolution

By Christina Morales

Alligator Staff Writer

UF President Kent Fuchs said on Thursday UF was trying to find the best place for Other Personnel Services, or OPS, workers in the employee classification system.

UF defines OPS workers as at-will, temporary labor, which can include secretaries, adjuncts and custodians. Fuchs said the Office of Human Resources is currently "looking across campus, college by college" to find how each college utilizes these workers and if some workers could receive

benefits.

However, Fuchs said UF won't pay OPS workers for the time they don't work, such as when employees didn't work during Hurricane Irma and the Richard Spencer event.

"We believe if there's some incident where the university closes, or for some reason they can't work, that their manager should find the best opportunities for them to make up that time," Fuchs said. "But not pay them if they actually don't work."

Faculty Senate will vote on a resolution endorsed by the Alachua County Labor Coalition to support giving some

OPS workers benefits in an April meeting. OPS workers are currently not given benefits and are paid by the hour.

Timothy Tia, the coordinator for the Alachua County Labor Coalition, said he's confident the resolution will pass, but more work is needed.

"I haven't seen a concrete statement on paper about what UF wants to do," the 21-year-old said. "I'm really happy to see that they're making progress. I look forward to seeing what they come up with next."

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Sean Kingston to headline UF event

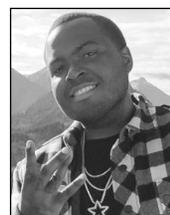
By Meryl Kornfield

Alligator Staff Writer

There will be a "fire burnin' on the dance floor" at the Reitz Union Rion Ballroom March 23, but don't call Gainesville Fire Rescue.

Sean Kingston, a Miami-born, Jamaican American singer and rapper, will perform as part of the fifth-annual Big Orange Festival, according to a Facebook event created by the Reitz Union Programming Board on Thursday. The festival is also hosting three Saturday Night Live comedians: Mikey

Day, Alex Moffat and Streeter Seidell.



Kingston

Students with a UFID can attend the event. Students must bring their UFID 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday to the North Lawn to receive an early ticket, the Facebook event said. Students can get a ticket for either Kingston's or the comedy performance but not both.

If enough ticket-holding students don't show, those in a standby line will get tickets, the Facebook event said.

The first 400 students who attend will get a free shirt. There will also be free food, acrobats and a showing of "The Greatest Showman," according to the Facebook event said.

RPB representatives didn't respond to multiple requests for comment.

Kelly Daly, a UF public relations junior, had a Sean Kingston-themed 21st birthday party in November. She said she has been a fan of Kingston's since she was in middle school and his music has a good beat.

"It reminds me of being young and summertime," she said.

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

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

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

Methodist

Trinity United Methodist Church

Wed: Contemporary service @6:35p in Trinity Chapel, followed by Coffee Talk for young adults @ Hunters Crossing Starbucks 5-9p Sunday services: 8:15, 9:40, 11a 352-376-6615 | TrinityGNV.org

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

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.

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



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

HEAD-SHAVING FOR CANCER AWARENESS

Sport Clips cosmetologist Megan Hill, 26, shaves 18-year-old UF business management freshman Marcos Vivot's head, in order to raise awareness for pediatric cancer. The annual St. Baldrick event is hosted by the Freshman Leadership Council to help raise money for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which funds pediatric cancer research.

Three Wawa gas stations proposed for Gainesville

A WAWA REPRESENTATIVE SAID THE STORE WASN'T ANNOUNCING NEW LOCATIONS.

By Robert Lewis
Alligator Staff Writer

Gainesville Publix locations will face a rival to their signature sub when three planned Wawa stores bring their hoagies to Gainesville.

Three Wawa locations, on Archer Road, in east Gainesville and in Celebration Pointe, a mixed-use shopping mall next to Interstate 75 and north of Archer Road, have been proposed, said Francine Sutton, a planning technician in the Gainesville Planning Department.

The 5,600-square foot Archer Road location, at 2373 SW Archer Road, near Bartram Apartments was first proposed in May 2017, said Jason Simmons, a Gainesville city planner. Construction on the building, which will

have six gas pumps with 12 pumping spots, can begin once final comments on the plans are addressed, according to planning documents.

The Archer Road and East University Avenue store, located at 1021 E. University Ave., layouts are planned to be similar, according to Alligator archives. The East University Avenue location was proposed in December 2017 and is not as far along in the approval process, Simmons said.

"It's not surprising that it might take a while," Simmons said. "They had to address the fundamental design of the project."

The location on Archer Road hasn't had the same problems in the approval process because it is in a different zoning district and has different requirements, Simmons said.

A Wawa representative said the convenience store chain was not announcing any new Gainesville location.

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UF's Career Resource Center names new senior director

By Elliott Nasby
Alligator Staff Writer

Ja'Net Glover has been named senior director for the UF Career Resource Center.

Glover had been serving as interim director since July 1, 2017, after Heather White stepped down to serve as Dean of Students, UF spokesperson Margot Winick wrote

in an email. Winick said Glover's salary couldn't be confirmed because she wasn't in the university's system yet.



Glover

Although Glover served as interim director, or temporary director, for the center for the past

eight months, she was selected over two other applicants in UF's national search for the position, Glover said.

"It's been surreal," she said. "A real blessing."

The UF alumna has spent more than 10 years as a job recruiter for the office, she said. Glover received a master's degree from UF's Warrington College of Business Administration in 2010.

Her new position will be effective March 23, according to a press release Thursday. She said she plans to integrate more career development at UF to better prepare students for their future careers.

During her time as interim director this past Fall, career advisers started meeting with students in campus housing to meet them in their own space.

Glover said this summer, the center will have its own front door and a new name, which is part of a \$7 million renovation project. It will add up to 10,000 square feet to the current office in the Reitz Union, according to Alligator archives.

"I am very excited about being able to lead the charge for UF in reimagining career services here," she said.

FIU footbridge collapses onto highway, crushes 8 vehicles

By The Associated Press

A pedestrian bridge that was under construction collapsed onto a busy Miami highway Thursday, crushing at least eight vehicles under massive slabs of concrete and steel and killing multiple people, authorities said.

Search-and-rescue crews drilled holes into the debris and used dogs to look for survivors. They had to work carefully because part of the structure was still unsafe. At least 10 people were taken to hospitals.

The 950-ton bridge had been assembled by the side of the highway and moved into place Saturday to great fanfare. The span stretched almost 200 feet to connect Florida International University with the city of Sweetwater. It was expected to open to foot traffic next year.

"We have a national tragedy on our hands," Sweetwater Mayor Orlando Lopez said.

Jacob Miller, a senior at FIU, was visiting a friend in a dorm when he heard sirens and horns honking. He went to a balcony and could see rubble coming down.

"I saw there were multiple cars crushed under the bridge. It was just terrible. I saw some people stopping their cars, trying to get out, trying to assess the situation to see if there is anything they could do to help," he said.

The exact death toll was unclear.

Robert Bea, a professor of engineering and construction management at the University of California, Berkeley, said it was too early to know exactly what happened, but the decision to use what the bridge builders called an "innovative installation" was risky, especially because the bridge spanned a heavily traveled thoroughfare.

"Innovations take a design firm into an area where they don't have applicable experience, and then we have another unexpected failure on our hands," Bea said after reviewing the bridge's design and photos of the collapse.

Sweetwater Police Detective Juan Llera was in a nearby meeting when the bridge collapsed.

"I heard a 'boom' like a bomb had exploded," he said. "At first I thought it was a terrorist attack."

The main companies behind the \$14.2 million construction project have faced questions about their past work, and one was fined in 2012 when a 90-ton section of a bridge collapsed in Virginia.

Florida International University is the second largest university in the state, with 55,000 students, most of whom live off-campus. The bridge was supposed to be a safe way to cross a busy highway.

A university student was killed in August while crossing the road the bridge was supposed to span.

Kent Fuchs to give \$10,000 of salary to Dance Marathon

By Celeste Mahfood
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF President Kent Fuchs will donate up to \$10,000 of his own money for Dance Marathon 2018.



Fuchs

For the 24th annual fundraiser UF Dance Marathon, Fuchs said he will match donations up to \$10,000. He contributes to Dance Marathon every year, often through social media campaigns, videos, attending meetings or participating in the closing ceremony. This year, the Dance Marathon leadership asked him if he would be willing to donate his own money, and he agreed.

"I'm just a willing participant eager to help in any way I can," Fuchs said.

More than 800 UF students work on Dance Marathon, a fundraising event in which participants try to stay on their feet for 26.2 hours, Rachel Auld, a UF Dance Marathon spokesperson, wrote in an email. It will be held March 24.

The money goes to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, and it's local nearest location is UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, to provide financial support and awareness for children with health issues.

Auld said this is the first time Fuchs or any former UF president has made a financial donation to Dance Marathon.

"President Fuchs is a man we all admire," Auld said. "A true role model to the UF population."

The organization also raises money through donor drives, mini marathons, merchandise, monetary sponsorship and community events, Auld said. Of the funds, 10 percent goes to education, 42 percent to patient care and 48 percent to research.

The opportunity to support children's healthcare influenced Fuchs' decision to donate. He said the cause is special to him, especially because the funds go into a local children's hospital.

Fuchs said he hopes his donation will increase motivation to all the students involved in the organization and donors.

Ashlyn Tosey, a 19-year-old UF animal sciences freshman and Dance Marathon member, said it's incredible to see the UF president willing to get behind the students working toward the cause.

Not only does Dance Marathon bring students together, but Fuchs also integrates himself into the Student Body to back the organization, Tosey said.

"He's not just the president," Tosey said. "He's definitely supportive of all his students."

Editorial

Like most college seniors about to graduate, you want answers. You need to know where you'll be in a few months. Realizing you don't have the power to see the future, you seek out someone who does: a psychic.

As you walk through the door of the tiny, dimly lit shop, a whiff of incense hits you like a train. You're early for your appointment and you have to wait a bit until the psychic is ready. You think to yourself, "Shouldn't she have known I'd be coming early?"

After mindlessly investigating tie-dye scarves and aromatherapy herbs, you head back to meet the woman who will tell you your future. "This better be worth the \$20 I paid for this," you think as you take the cup of tea she hands you.

The psychic instructs you to drink the tea until the leaves at the bottom of the cup are visible. The leaves will reveal your future, she says. As you look down into the cup, you realize you were just conned out of \$20. The leaves do not spell your future. Instead, they read ...

Darts & Laurels

This Wednesday, we said goodbye to one of the greatest scientific minds of our time. Stephen Hawking died at his home in Cambridge, England, at the age of 76.

Although his death has created a worldwide mourning, it is, like the rest of his life, impressive. In 1963, when he was graduate student at the University of Cambridge, he was told he had only two years left to live after he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. He lived for 55 more years and devoted his life to achieving, in his words, "a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is, and why it exists at all."

While we usually award darts and laurels to individuals or groups, we felt **Hawking's death**, a non-concrete person, deserves its own **dart**. The world will be forever changed by his discoveries.

Exactly one month after the horrific school shooting in Parkland, Florida, students across the country took a stand against gun violence Wednesday. At 10 a.m., high school and middle school students walked out of their classrooms. Many did so against the wishes of school authorities.

To say we are proud of all of these students is insufficient. We are beyond proud. Our pride has reached a point where no word exists capable of describing just how proud we are.

To the **students** who participated in these walkouts and the **people** who continue fighting against injustice and violence, we award our first **laurel**.

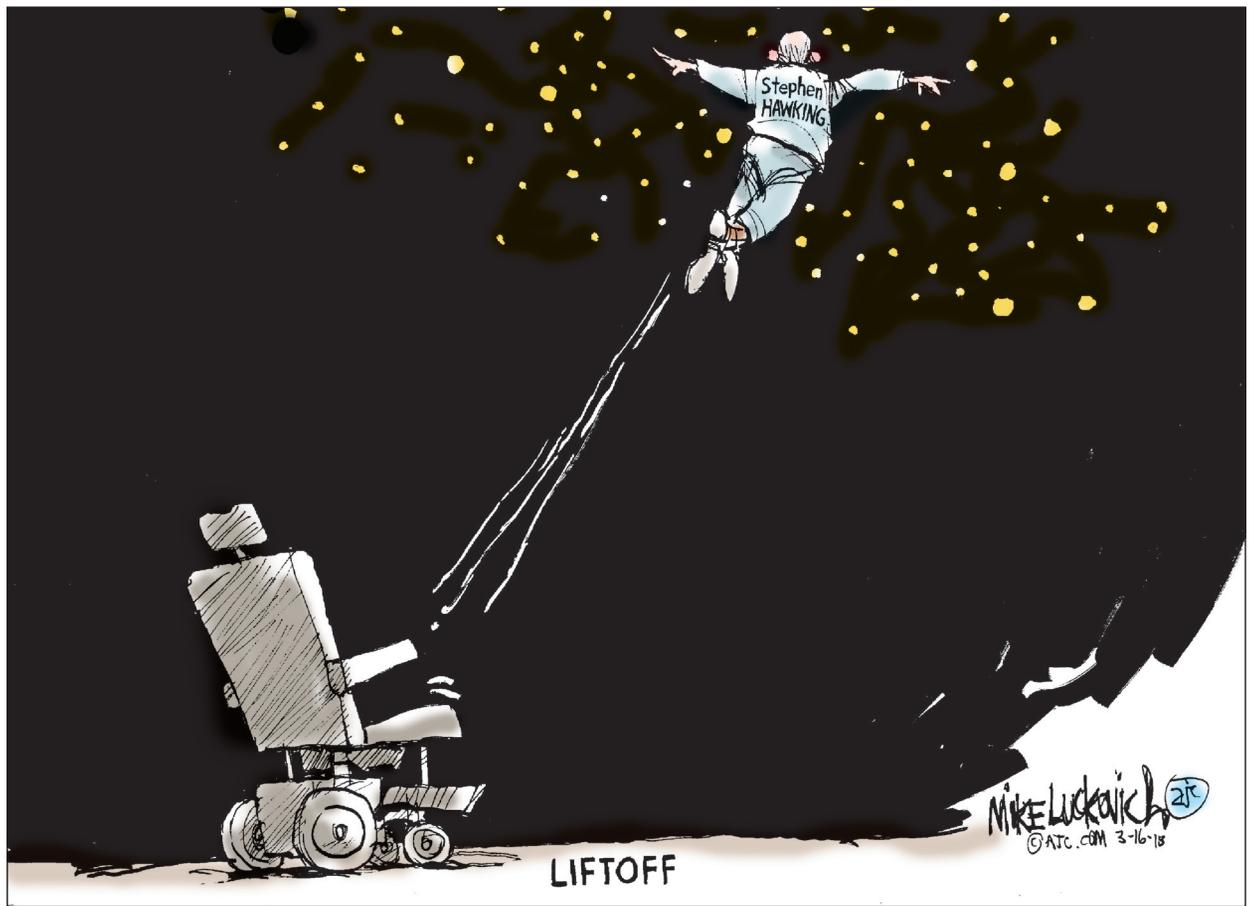
On Sunday, Gov. Rick Scott signed two education bills into law that are likely to improve the lives of students across the state. One will permanently expand Bright Futures for the top two tiers of award recipients and prevent public universities and colleges from restricting speech to "free-speech zones." The second bill will provide scholarship funding for bullied students to transfer to an eligible private school and threatens to decertify teacher unions if their membership falls below 50 percent of the employees they represent.

We are thrilled to see Gov. Scott making moves to increase scholarship funding and protect the rights of free speech. Although we are pleased about the scholarship funding for bullied children, we are wary about the threat to decertify teacher unions if their membership falls below 50 percent of the employees they represent. This threat will likely encourage teachers to join their union and remain members, but we are still not thrilled at the intimidating methods it is taking to do so.

As usual, however, we have to celebrate the almost complete victories. As such, we award our last **laurel** to **Gov. Scott** for 75 percent of the new bills signed this week. However, we can't let him off that easily. **Gov. Scott** is also the recipient of our last **dart**, for his ill-advised threat to Florida teachers.

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

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Column

Does Greek life have a future at UF?

As part of my many evening events this week, I am having dinner with the brothers of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

Several years ago, SigEp was suspended from UF for hazing and drug use violations. It is hardly alone, neither at UF or other universities. Indeed, serious and often unlawful incidents related to hazing and drinking have left fraternities and sororities nationwide at a tipping point.

Pennsylvania State University banned the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity after 19-year-old Timothy Piazza's death due to extreme hazing and alcohol violations last year. Prosecutors have filed charges against 26 people.

Louisiana State University suspended all Greek activities and banned the Phi Delta Theta chapter after freshman Maxwell Gruver died following a drinking and hazing incident. Police have filed charges against 10 people.

Florida State University shuttered the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity after the hazing death of 20-year-old Andrew Coffey last year. Police have filed charges against nine people.

At UF, 22 percent of our undergraduates, or 7,584 students, are members of 65 Greek organizations on campus. Although, thankfully, we haven't experienced a death tied to hazing or drinking at these organizations in recent years, we do have on average, in the past five years, one fraternity or sorority suspended every year for policy violations, usually involving hazing or alcohol.

What Penn State, LSU and FSU experienced could occur here.

How should we respond?

Following the FSU incident, President John Thrasher received both national criticism and praise for his decisive actions in suspending all Greek activities, suspending consumption of alcohol on campus and launching a campus-wide initiative to reinvent Greek life at FSU. I stand with President Thrasher and all other leaders who are setting a higher standard for all students, particularly members of the Greek community.

At UF, the Office of Student Affairs is working with the



Kent Fuchs

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four UF Greek councils to seek to eliminate underage drinking, hazing and sexual violence, along with managing events with alcohol more effectively and adding more staff support.

Amid these institutional efforts, fraternities and sororities also need to take it upon themselves to raise the bar.

The good news is some already are.

In the past two years, SigEp, nationally and locally, has undergone a transformation. Policy changes remove pledging from membership and

establish substance-free chapter houses as the fraternity standard. The fraternity has worked to establish what it calls the Balanced Man Program, which eliminates hazing and instills purpose, perspective, academic excellence, integrity, physical health and mental wellness.

Other UF fraternities have undergone similar transformations.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. chapter at UF was suspended in 2012 for hazing charges. After restarting in Fall 2015, it won the National Chapter of the Year award in 2017.

Although I have never been a member of a fraternity, I have come to appreciate the considerable value of the Greek community and the positive difference fraternities and sororities can have on their members as well as on the university overall. The Florida Greek community shapes the college experience of its members and contributes significantly to their personal development. The four pillars of Greek life at UF are scholarship, service, leadership and community. I see this lived out across our fraternities and sororities.

At UF, our overall aspiration is that we "will be a premier university that the state, nation and world look to for leadership." UF must lead in Greek life, particularly in being a model for the elimination of all alcohol and substance abuse, hazing, sexual assault, sexual harassment and racism.

At this tipping point for fraternities and sororities, I call on all of us involved to make sure that Greek life at UF has a future.

Kent Fuchs is the president of UF. His column is featured monthly.

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

Column

Here are some reasons you should care about Student Government at UF

Perhaps you're just a plebeian, going in and out of the Reitz Union and Southwest Recreation Center, showing up to various general body meetings of clubs and riding the bus. Maybe you're a power user of Student Government services, taking advantage of our school's free New York Times subscriptions and subsidized late-night Uber services (Google "UF Safe Rides" if you don't know what I'm talking about, and thank me later).

SG and the services it provides are ubiquitous and useful. It's also kind of wild, too; where else in the world do 20-some-things manage a \$20 million budget?

As students, inside and out of SG, we have a lot of power. Think about the big conversations we've had this year about access to mental health counselors and free menstrual hygiene products.

Progress ultimately came about after students spoke in support of the initiatives during Student Senate meetings.

Progress can be complicated, however. As a two-term senator, I've had my fair

share of getting lost in the confusing bureaucracy of not only our SG, but also the greater UF administration. As a result of the complicated process of getting things done, sometimes there is misinformation and misdirected rage where there doesn't have to be.

We need more transparency and more engagement with the Student Body as SG officials, and it is along that line of thought that I came up with the idea of this column. I see this column as something dynamic, responsive and changing every week, depending on what is happening in SG. Sometimes this column will serve as an update for what's going on, while other times it'll be the story behind an accomplishment or perhaps a Q&A.

I can't tell you why you should care about SG, but at least I can tell you why I care.

I also thought it'd be fitting to introduce myself in my first column.

My name is Zachariah Chou, and I've



Zachariah Chou

opinions@alligator.org

had a passion for public service for as long as I've known. That one annoying story that got repeated in all my college application essays talked about preschool-aged me professing my desire to become a missionary to my parents, only to have them respond by questioning why I don't instead try to be a politician? My skills would likely be put to better use toward the greater good, they contended.

That led to a relatively early involvement in SG in middle school, which I continued throughout high school as well. When I knew I was coming to UF, I knew I just had to be a part of SG. I went online to The Alligator website and started reading about all the drama. I can't say I didn't know what I was getting myself into.

I started my time here in UF during Summer B of 2016 and immediately started attending Senate meetings. At those meetings, I got to see just a small portion of the work that SG does — and even from that I

realized the enormous potential that exists within our SG to make a difference to every student on campus.

Glossing over all the lovely partisan political drama, I got elected in the Fall as the first senator for Infinity Hall and was elected this past Fall as the senator for the Murphree Area. I love and stress over my role quite a lot, and while it's given me more white hairs than I'd like to say, it is helping people and making positive change that keeps me going.

What keeps you going? I daresay there is certainly some way SG intersects with what you care about. Maybe it's a reason for you to care more about SG. We'll see.

Questions, comments or concerns? You can email me at: zchou@ufl.edu.

Zachariah Chou is a UF political science sophomore and serves as the senator of the Murphree Area. His column focuses on Student Government.

Editor's note: Chou formerly worked as a paid photographer for the Alligator.

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Students learn about Syrian crisis, try to pin country on map

By Vivian Nguyen
Alligator Contributing Writer

Kaitlin Thorp was walking through Turlington Plaza when she stopped at a map and tried to locate Syria. She put her small pin on the country that sits between Turkey and Iraq.

Thorp was one of about 30 people who put pins on the map, with most generally hovering in the

Middle East. But a few were pinned farther away such as in Florida and near India. The event, "Pin Syria on a Map," was held for the first time from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday by the student organization as part of UF's second annual Syria Solidarity Week, said Mariam Elsafty, vice president of Students Organize for Syria.

The week is a national effort dedicated to educating people about the Syrian crisis because Thursday

marks the seventh anniversary of the Syrian revolution, Elsafty said.

"I feel like these days a lot of people have a lot of things to say about Syria, but, honestly, some people don't even know where to locate it on a map," the 19-year-old UF biology sophomore said.

She said it brings it back to the basics and normalizes Syria to people, encouraging them to look into its history and read more about it.

"If you can't get yourself to un-

derstand something as basic as where a country is located in a region, then you can't get yourself to understand the bigger and deeper complicated issues at hand," Elsafty said.

Thorp, 18, said she stopped by because she is really passionate about the Middle East. The UF wildlife ecology and conservation freshman said the United States should be making more humanitarian efforts to help Syrians who are suffer-

ing and have no control over their situations.

If people are more aware of where countries that are always seen in the headlines are, it makes the people, cultures and values that come from there more real, Thorp said.

"We have more of a reason to take action and try to help these people if we are aware of where they live and that they are humans and not just people we see on the news," she said.

Mom raises money for African orphans' soccer uniforms

By Amanda Rosa
Alligator Staff Writer

Rita Philips was checking her email Friday night when she found a message in her inbox that made her cry.

Philips, 54, a Gainesville resident, heard from Jake Bramer, an independent missionary in Rwanda. Bramer sent her photos of an orphanage's soccer team decked out in royal purple Gainesville High School uniforms she donated to them in 2014.

"It made my heart so happy," Philips said. "I just couldn't believe it because I had not thought about that in years."

Philips, who is a paralegal and mother of a former Gainesville High School student and soccer player, was awestruck to see pictures of the Hurricanes For Jesus team still proudly wearing the jerseys. She posted the photos and story on Facebook on Friday and received more than 1,000 likes and comments.

People showed interest in donating money to the team's orphanage and replacing the now 8-year-old uniforms, which had been used for four years by the team in Rwanda and another four by the GHS students. Philips made a GoFundMe on Tuesday, which raised more than \$200 in one day.

Philips was a booster for the school's team and decided to donate the used uniforms in 2014, instead of tossing them out. She packed up 26 jerseys, 18 shorts and 26 pairs of socks into a box as a donation to Peace Passers, a nonprofit based in Char-

lotte, North Carolina, that connects owners of new or used soccer equipment to communities in need.

Candace Murray, the group's co-founder and director, matched Philips with Bramer, a missionary and Tennessee state trooper who requested men's jerseys for Daniel's House, an orphanage in Kigali, Rwanda.

Murray, who played soccer at Buchholz High School in her hometown of Gainesville, was inspired.

"You can see the happiness in those players and the pride that they have," she said.

Bramer has visited Daniel's House, which cares for about 200 infants and minors, every February for the past seven years. He brought the uniforms in duffel bags to the orphanage.

Although the team members were excited to wear their new uniforms, they did not know what hurricanes are, Bramer said. After explaining the team name, the boys fell in love with the uniforms even more. The Hurricanes of Rwanda love their team name and wash their uniforms by hand after every game, Bramer said.

"I told them that hurricanes were a strong storm, and they really liked the sound of that," he said. "I told them that the purple was for royalty and that they were children of God, and they really liked that too."

@AmandaNicRosa
arosa@alligator.org

UF remembers Hawking

By Elliott Nasby
Alligator Staff Writer

UF professor Pierre Ramond remembers sitting down with Stephen Hawking at a California Institute of Technology cafeteria in 1979.



Hawking

Hawking, who frequented the Caltech campus, had asked to meet with Ramond, now a distinguished professor of theoretical physics. They spoke for hours about relativity.

"One of the worst experiences in my life," he said.

By the end of the conversation, Ramond was exhausted. He had never met anyone like Hawking, who could hold a conversation about theories of the universe, but needed assistance to eat. Ramond went home and fell asleep.

Hawking was "an extreme of what human beings can do" until his death, said Ramond, who was lucky enough to have met the world-renowned theoretical physicist.

Hawking died peacefully in his Cambridge home Wednesday at the age of 76, according to a public statement by the University of Cambridge. Hawking coincidentally died the same day as Albert Einstein's birthday and Pi Day, March 14, which celebrates the mathematical constant of pi, or 3.14.

Ramond met Hawking around a decade after the well-known scientist had been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease, a slowly progressive debilitating disease. He was still capable of speech at this time and began bombarding Ramond with very high-level

questions.

Hawking, a witty, imaginative thinker, will be remembered for his ability to bridge the divide between science and popular culture.

By 1974, he was well-known for his discovery that black holes are not a one-way energy street and can absorb and emit radiation — a concept now known as Hawking radiation.

Hawking further launched himself into celebrity status in 1988 with the publishing of his first book, "A Brief History of Time," which has been hailed as an imaginative, yet powerfully simple work describing humankind's effort to explain the universe with one unified theory.

Just over 200 pages, the book is meant for experts and the general public alike, with more than 10 million copies sold.

At UF, the physics community reflected on Hawking's life after learning of his death.

On Wednesday morning, Derek Klein, a UF astrophysics senior, sensed shock in a study lounge in the New Physics Building as the news sunk in, he said.

"It's definitely bittersweet," the 31-year-old said.

Katia Matcheva, a UF physics associate professor, began her electromagnetism lecture that morning by showing a video clip commemorating Hawking and reminding her class of the many positives that came from his life. She said his contributions to humanity will live on, and his passion is inspiring for anyone, even those not in science fields.

"He is not gone," Matcheva said. "He overcame such a debilitating health problem that he had and lived a very meaningful and a very full life."

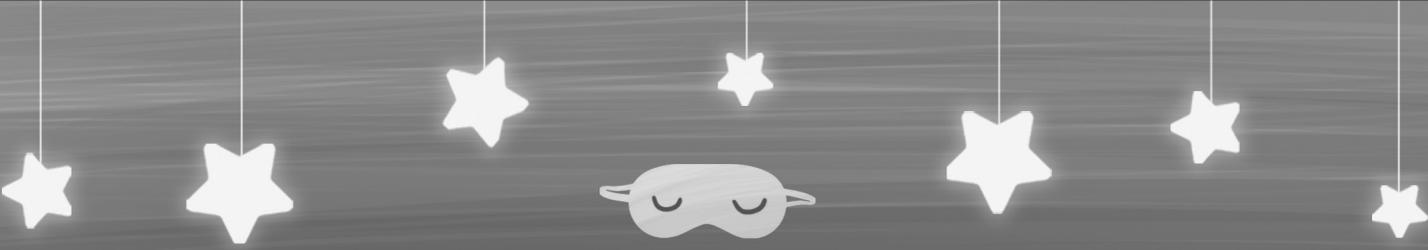

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Spring 2018

STUDENT LIVING guide

WHAT IS OFF CAMPUS LIFE?

UF's Off Campus Life, which is a part of UF's Division of Student Affairs, has been providing support services and resources to UF students living off campus since 2004. Off Campus Life is located inside the Housing Office on the corner of SW 13th Street & Museum Road. Visit www.offcampus.ufl.edu

FREE ONLINE HOUSING LOCATOR SERVICE

Students can search for off-campus housing, subleases and roommates through this free online site. This site also allows students to post sublease listings. Go to <http://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu> to use this resource.

GATOR GUIDE TO OFF CAMPUS LIFE

A free publication that provides tips and resources for finding the right apartment, budgeting information, safety tips, tips to reduce your utility usage, a map of the city, and much more. To get a copy of the Gator Guide, visit the OCL office located inside the Housing Office on the corner of SW 13th Street & Museum Road, or visit the OCL website at www.offcampus.ufl.edu and click on the Gator Guide link.

INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Off Campus Life provides one on one meetings with students who are searching for off-campus housing. Meetings include information on the housing market, average costs, lease information, steps to follow to find off-campus housing, safety tips, transportation information, and the answers to your housing questions. To set up an appointment please complete the appointment request form available through the OCL website www.offcampus.ufl.edu/appointments/ or call (352)392-1207 to schedule a meeting with an OCL staff member.

OFF CAMPUS AMBASSADORS

OCL's sponsored student organization works to connect off-campus students with UF and the Gainesville community. The OCA's assist Off Campus Life with events, outreach efforts, and plan their own events including an annual Roommate Mixer

and Puppy Palooza. To learn more, visit the Off Campus Ambassador webpage at www.offcampus.ufl.edu/off_campus_ambassadors/.

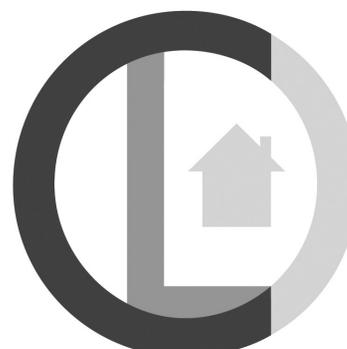
DISCOVER GAINESVILLE

This monthly event series allows students to attend fun activities in the Gainesville community, and OCL covers the cost. Upcoming Spring 2016 Discover Gainesville events include hiking at Devil's Millhopper (March 26th) and Free Ice

Cream Scoop at Sweet Dreams (April 11th). To learn more about Discover Gainesville and to reserve a spot for one of OCL's upcoming events visit the OCL website events page www.offcampus.ufl.edu/events.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Check OCL out on social media including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Pinterest @UFOffCampusLife.



OFF CAMPUS LIFE

University of Florida
Division of Student Affairs

GETTING STARTED

Gainesville has an abundance of off-campus housing options, so take your time, and be sure to visit at least 5-6 properties in person before signing a lease. Follow the steps below to find the right place for you or visit <http://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu>.

- Utilize UF's Off Campus Housing Locator Service at <http://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu>.
- Know your budget and choose a property that allows you to live within your means.
- Choose a well-suited roommate or choose to live alone. Know what kind of person would best complement your personality and choose accordingly.
- Create a priority list. What do you care about most in a living space? Room size, rent, type of lease, type of community (large undergraduate population, graduate students, local residents, etc.), location, proximity to campus or bus route. Create a list of ideal characteristics you want in your future living space and keep these criteria in mind when selecting a location.
- Drive around and visit the properties and neighborhoods where you are thinking about living.
- Take a tour of the complexes or houses that interest you, ask questions and get to know the complex management or rental house landlord.
- Ask your friends for advice on where to live. Which properties worked well for them? Which did not?
- Check the RTS bus routes www.go-rt.com to make sure routes work for your class schedule.
- Visit the Crime Reports website www.crimereports.com to view, on a searchable map, crime statistics before signing a lease.
- While taking a tour check for safety features including deadbolts and peepholes on entrance doors, windows that lock, exterior lighting and well maintained properties.
- Also, go back to the property at night and check to see if the property is it well-lit, do you see the security guard that management promised, is the security gate working, is it quiet enough to study and sleep, and check the lighting at the bus stop or parking lot to the complex or house.
- Once you've narrowed down your search, make an appointment with UF's Student Legal Services by going to their website www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu. SLS can help you in reviewing the lease BEFORE you sign it. This is a great way to understand your legal responsibilities under that lease.

TYPES OF LEASES

Make sure you read and fully understand all aspects of the lease before signing. A lease is a contract between you and your landlord or apartment complex management that outlines specific details of your living arrangement. Leases often involve policies about pets, security and pet deposits, subleasing, legal entry and other important information. Typically, leases in Gainesville are for 12 months. If you need to rent for 10 months or less, talk with the management about whether they can provide a short-term lease.

There are two types of leases that are usually available, Joint Leases and Individual Leases.

Joint Lease: All roommates are held responsible for the lease. If one person breaks the lease, the other roommates are held responsible for paying the total rent. This tends to be the lease more prominent when renting a house or single family dwelling.

Individual Lease: Each person is held responsible for his or her own actions. For instance, if one roommate breaks the lease, that person is still responsible for paying their own rent. For most college students, individual leases are the best choice. Each person in the lease is responsible for his or her own actions and not the actions of a roommate.

CLAUSES TO LOOK FOR IN A LEASE

- Dates of occupancy
- Monthly rent and the date it is due each month
- Application Fees, Security Deposit, Redecoration Fees, and any other fees charged
- Responsibility for payment of utilities
- Responsibility for general maintenance and repairs
- Sublease: If you sign a 12 month lease, but think you may need the dwelling for a shorter period of time, make sure the lease allows you to sublease (rent your dwelling to another person who will assume the remainder of your lease)
- Pet policy
- Automatic renewal clause
- Type of lease

CLAUSES TO AVOID IN YOUR LEASE

- The tenant may be asked to leave within three days
- Tenant waives all defects in the building
- Landlord shall not be responsible for injury to person, including tenant and guests, as a result of any cause
- Tenant is responsible for all repairs to premises
- Landlord is allowed enter dwelling without notice
- Landlord has a lien on all personal property of tenant
- For any questions on your lease, visit the Student Legal Services website www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu and set up an appointment with a lawyer to review the lease BEFORE you sign it.

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Finally finding the perfect house or apartment can be exciting, but don't let your enthusiasm get the best of you – the first thing you need to do is have your lease reviewed by one of the qualified attorneys at UF Student Legal Services (SLS). The attorneys at SLS are extremely familiar with landlord-tenant case law and work full-time assisting UF students with these cases, as well as many others. SLS is funded by Student Government, so there is no charge to UF students for this service.

A lease review appointment gets you one-on-one time with an experienced SLS attorney who can point out important aspects of your lease and offer recommenda-

tions on how to protect yourself. Proper planning is key, and some of the easiest things to do include: keeping copies of all lease-related documents; taking pictures or video of the place as it was when you moved in; and asking about any maintenance issues early on.

A wide variety of issues can crop up during your lease, and SLS can help with these as well. Things like pest control and site maintenance can infringe on your right to habitable premises, so seek out SLS should you encounter problems your landlord will not resolve – do not attempt to withhold rent or break your lease on your own.

Emotional Support Animals (ESAs)

are a new trend in landlord-tenant cases. There are specific qualifications that must be met for an ESA – such as a supporting letter from a qualified healthcare provider – but you are still responsible for any damages caused by the ESA. The landlord is only required to make reasonable accommodations, and the ESA can be denied should it negatively impact your roommates.

At the end of your lease, you may encounter claims against your security deposit for damages. Should these seem excessive, contact SLS as soon as possible – deadlines are attached to claims like these and must be met in order for an attorney to help.



Protect yourself and the new space you want to call home – contact SLS for a lease review today! For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit www.studentlegalservices.ufl.edu, call (352) 392-5297(LAWS) or email sls@studentlegalservices.ufl.edu.

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SHOULD YOU HAVE A ROOMMATE?

Having a roommate is a great way to divide the cost of living off campus, but if you don't find the right person to live with, living off campus could be challenging.

- Start your roommate search with a friend or sibling. These are often good options for roommates since you already know them.
- Communication is key. Talk about your budget for housing, expectations for guests, and what your housing needs are before you even begin your search. Being on the same page as your roommate(s) will improve your roommate experience and reduce the possibility for conflict.
- Before moving in, establish an agreement about who will get which bedroom and bathroom along with which cabinets/storage space each person can use.
- Discuss how payment of rent and bills will take place. Is each person responsible for their own bills or will someone be in charge of collecting payment from each roommate?
- Don't have someone you want to live with? Some apartment complexes offer "Roommate Matching" or "Roommate Placement."
- Make sure you can change apartments if management places you with roommates you are not compatible with, be aware there is typically a fee if you need to move due to a roommate issue.
- Off Campus Life's Housing Locator <http://housing.offcampus.ufl.edu> has a roommate finder feature where you can search for roommates.

SAFETY TIPS FOR RENTERS

Both personal and property safety is important as you search for off-campus housing. Before signing a lease, Off Campus Life recommends you check the crime statistics for an area before moving there. The Crime Reports website www.crimereports.com allows you to search by address, and see on map, crime that has occurred in that area over the last three weeks. Below are five tips to utilize when looking at safety during your apartment search:

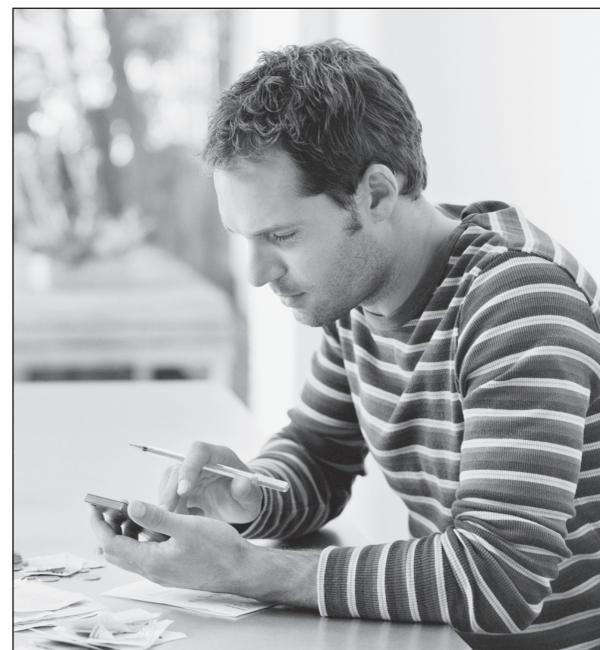
1. *Go back to the complex at night. How do you feel? Is the place well-lit and populated or dark and isolated?*
2. *Does the property have working security gates and/or guards?*
3. *Check for dead bolts on the exterior door(s), locks for individual room doors, alarm systems, etc. and ask specific questions about the security. Is there an extra charge for a security system?*
4. *Has there been crime in the area recently? What actions have been done to prevent crime from happening?*
5. *Don't forget about purchasing Renters Insurance to protect you and your stuff from the unexpected.*

BUDGETING TIPS

You can't find the right place to live until you know how much you are able to spend. Here are some budget questions you should think about while touring.

Your living environment plays a major factor in your overall happiness level. Know what you want to get out of your living space and choose your location and roommate(s) accordingly. Gainesville is home now, so let Off Campus Life help you get the most out of your off-campus experience.

- What is the monthly rent?
- What is included in that rent? Utilities, gas, water, cable, internet, furniture?
- What is not included in rent? What is the average monthly cost for gas, electric, water, garbage disposal? If management doesn't know, contact GRU at www.gru.com and they can give you average costs of utilities from the previous year.
- Want to have a pet? Factor in the deposit and monthly cost for food, medical and grooming care.
- Don't forget the insurance. Before you sign your lease, call your insurance company and see how much it will cost monthly to insure your apartment or house.
- Are you going to need fuel for your vehicle or are you going to use the bus? Factor parking decal costs and car maintenance costs into your budget.
- How much will you spend monthly on groceries or on a meal plan?
- Have some fun! Don't spend so much on rent that you don't have money for fun stuff.
- What do you spend on clothing, shoes and accessories?
- How much money can you save every month? It's ideal to save some money every month to cover unexpected emergency expenses. Even \$20 a month saved is good. Every little bit counts!



Gainesville students walk out of class for gun reform

By David Hoffman
& Rachel Porter
Alligator Writers

For 17 minutes, about 100 Eastside High School students, arms linked, stood silent in their school courtyard Wednesday morning. Catherine Sarosi, 18, had never heard her classmates so quiet.

"We felt the gravity of what had happened, and we wanted to respect the people that lost their lives," Sarosi said.

Sarosi and her classmates were among thousands of students who marched and walked out of their schools across the country to protest gun violence and demand gun reform. Students left their classrooms for 17 minutes, one minute for each victim of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas

High School shooting, according to The New York Times. Alachua County School Board member Robert Hyatt said students who participated in Wednesday's protests would not face punishment.

The students walked out of classes at about 10 a.m. and met in the courtyard. Some brought signs, including one that listed anti-gun laws, Sarosi said.

After the 17 minutes of silence, Eastside student Ari Bechtel told his classmates to take a stand and get involved. After Bechtel spoke, students went back to class — but not to stay. At about noon, before lunch period, students marched out of classes again, this time more informally, said Bailey McIntyre, a 17-year-old high school senior.

McIntyre said the second walkout was an opportunity for students to talk about

change they want to see.

"I'm contacting legislators," McIntyre said on how she plans on making a change.

Across town, about 100 other protesters marched from Buchholz High School to Congressman Ted Yoho's office, located at 5000 NW 27th Court, where they honored the victims of the Parkland shooting and advocated for stricter gun regulations. Women's March for Gainesville and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America's Gainesville chapter co-sponsored the event.

Yoho talked with students from the march over Skype from his Washington D.C. office at about noon. His office scheduled the meeting Monday when the Alachua County Sheriff's Office told Yoho's aids of the Wednesday protest, said Yoho constituent advocate Jessica Norfleet.

When the 11:15 a.m. march from Bu-

chholz High School began, Lorelei Esser's grandnephew ran ahead of her.

Four-year-old Gabriel jumped up and down the sidewalk with his blue and yellow sign that read "Children's Lives Matter."

Esser, 68, said she struggles with how to present the dangers of guns to her grandnephew. She doesn't want to frighten him. But then she thinks of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, where children only two to three years older than Gabriel were killed.

"Age is indiscriminate. It doesn't matter whether you're his age or my age," she said. "These shootings affect all of us."

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Alachua Schools now requires all classroom doors to be locked

FEATURE, from pg. 1

do if shots rang out in their classroom. Instead of joking how they'd all probably fall while ice skating during their Spring Break trip to Orlando, Sarosi and her friends talk about which room they want to be in, and whether they'd hide or fight if a shooter came.

Her environmental science teacher urged them to run if an active shooter situation ever arose. Her English teacher walked her daughter, a freshman, around the school to point out hiding spots, she said.

Alachua County Public Schools are doing the best they can to put students' minds at ease, said School Board member Robert Hyatt.

"This district did not wait for Parkland to be addressing safety needs," he said.

In 2017, all administrators received ALICE training — active shooter response protocol that stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate — and are reviewing material now, Hyatt said earlier this month.

Unlike other counties, every Alachua County Public school has a school resource officer, he said. During the 2016-2017 school year, school resource officers suggested safety-related facility needs. Following reviews, schools added fencing, gates and doors, Hyatt said. They plan on conducting another walk-through soon.

The shooting has spurred Alachua schools to reexamine policies and facilities to ensure the safest environment possible. Now, schools are required to lock their classroom doors throughout the school day, Hyatt said.

Residents in Alachua County can vote on a half-cent sales tax referendum in November that could provide additional funding for public schools, part of which could be used to strengthen facilities, Hyatt said.

Alachua County Public Schools will receive an additional \$1.1 million specifically for school safety measures as a result of the school

safety bill, SB 7026, Gov. Rick Scott signed March 9, Hyatt said.

Along with more funding, the bill also raises the age to buy a gun to 21, bans the sale of bump stocks — devices that make a semiautomatic weapon fire like an automatic weapon — and gives law enforcement greater authority to seize weapons from individuals deemed mentally unfit.

The idea of armed teachers, metal detectors and bulletproof glass doesn't necessarily make Sarosi feel comfortable.

"We're not supposed to be in a war zone," she said.

The high school senior is especially concerned about the provision that allows some teachers to be armed.

"I think it breaks down some of the safety that students can find in their teachers," she said.

• • •

Roderick Jackson, a junior at Buchholz High School, walked out of his math class Wednesday morning for something he said was bigger than himself. The 17-year-old marched to Rep. Ted Yoho's office to demand answers to the questions he finds himself asking every day.

"How long can we wait before another one happens?"

"How long before my friends die in front of me?"

"How long before I die?"

Since the shooting, he feels like adults are starting to value the voices of students more, but he doesn't want all of the responsibility of changing the broken system to be placed on his generation.

Jackson said he is proud to see his classmates mobilizing for a cause they care about, but he fears elected officials like Yoho don't understand the urgency of the situation. They don't understand the fear.

"(Yoho) kept saying that our generation is the future," he said, "but we can't change the future if we can't live to see the future."

@jessica_giles_
jgiles@



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

Students lie in the grass on Plaza of the Americas, holding signs as a part of Indivisible UF's lie-down protest Wednesday morning.



David Hoffman / Alligator

Five students, including one middle-schooler, Skyped with Congressman Ted Yoho, who was in his Washington, D.C., office Wednesday during the nationwide Walkout Wednesday protest.

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A ₁	A ₁	O ₁	R ₁	L ₁	N ₁	G ₂		
E ₁	I ₁	O ₁	D ₂	F ₄	C ₃	N ₁	1st Letter Triple	
A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	U ₁	V ₄	N ₁	T ₁		
O ₁	O ₁	U ₁	H ₄	R ₁	G ₂	B ₃	Double Word Score	

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Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

3				5	7		
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	7			4			3

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!

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FOOTBALL

Three questions that merit answers entering spring football practice

By Ethan Bauer
Sports Writer

Dan Mullen knows expectations are high.

He knows fans want results right away. But he also has expectations of his own, and they have nothing to do with wins and losses.

With spring practice opening today at 4:25 p.m. with full public access at the Sanders Practice Fields, Mullen is expecting some bumps. He's expecting his players to struggle with learning a new offense and defense. And before they even get that far, he's expecting them to have to adapt to the new law of the land.

"It's always a challenge because it's just not learning the offense or defense and special teams but learning what we expect in the speed of practice," Mullen said. "How practice is go-

ing to go. Running from drill to drill and just how things work. It's different, so that will be a challenge."

A challenge that will surely be full of hurdles under a radical change of philosophy and process, but one Mullen is hoping produces results by the Orange and Blue Debut on April 14. With that in mind, here are three questions Mullen could address in spring ball.

1. Will the new conditioning program make that much of a difference?

Director of strength and conditioning Nick Savage has been hailed as a savior to a program that has been ravaged by injuries in recent years. Last year, running back Malik Davis, receiver Tyrie Cleveland, guard Brett Heggie, defensive lineman Jordan Sherit and safety Marcell Harris

were just some of the players who missed significant chunks of last season for Florida.

Athletic Director Scott Stricklin wasn't shy about noting the strength program's deficiencies when former coach Jim McElwain parted with the school, and Stricklin said it would be an emphasis moving forward. Players believe that so far, Mullen and Savage have delivered on that promise.

"It's really their team," safety Chauncey Gardner-Johnson said of the strength staff. "Everything flows through them. Once we go in that weight room, it's all lit."

It's impossible to predict if fewer injuries will occur as a result, but Gardner-Johnson believes having players who are bigger and stronger certainly won't hurt.

"You tell coach Savage and his
SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 20

Jake's on a Plane / Opinion

Putting Oklahoma in the NCAA Tournament was the right call

Picture this scenario. You decide to go to the movies, but you aren't sure what film you want to see. In front of you are two choices.



Jake Dreilinger
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The first is "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." You've heard mixed reviews about this movie, but everyone wants to see it because of how iconic it is. You would be missing a lot by not seeing the movie.

The second is "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri." It's a really good movie in its own right, and it has all the elements it needs to succeed. However, outside of its limited screening, not many people would care about it.

So which would you rather see? If my guess is right, probably

Star Wars. Now if you were a college basketball fan, would you rather see Trae Young and Oklahoma play in the NCAA Tournament, or slightly more qualified bubble teams like USC, Middle Tennessee, Marquette or Oklahoma State?

For those wondering how Oklahoma could have possibly gotten in over some of those other teams, it is extremely puzzling at first glance. In OU's last 12 games of the season prior to the Big Dance, it lost nine of those contests, including an 11-point defeat to Oklahoma State in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament.

But what it comes down to is

SEE COLUMN, PAGE 20

Florida faces Texas Tech on Saturday at 8:40 p.m.

BASKETBALL, from pg 1

lead by the buzzer, the Gators shot below 30 percent from the field in the opening period.

Adams — St. Bonaventure's leading scorer — struggled to find his shot. He didn't convert a field goal until the 8:27 mark in the second half. As a team, the Bonnies shot just 26.1 percent in an opening half so ugly, coach Mark Schmidt described it as a "rock fight" in an on-court interview during the TV broadcast.

Florida began the latter half of action with three unanswered buckets: a fadeaway three from guard KeVaughn Allen and layups from both Koulechov and guard Chris Chiozza. Suddenly, the Gators found themselves riding a 12-point lead just two minutes into the half.

While St. Bonaventure's poor performance from the field continued, trips to the charity stripe and sub-par shooting from Florida kept the Bonnies in the game until late. They shot 34 free throws, compared

to the Gators' 18.

With fewer than 10 minutes to play, Hudson finally found the bottom of the net from downtown after six missed three-point attempts. His shot was followed by two more assists from Chiozza, putting Florida up 54-35 with 8:55 remaining.

Hudson, seemingly sparked by his first connection from deep, helped the Gators bury the Bonnies late. A two-handed put-back slam was followed by another three-pointer. Fourteen of his 16 points came in the second half.

A 23-point deficit with just under seven minutes to play proved too daunting a task for the Bonnies. The remainder of the game carried out in front of a mostly empty arena.

UF will play again on Saturday against third-seeded Texas Tech at 8:40 p.m. The Red Raiders earned a spot in the second round with their 70-60 defeat of Stephen F. Austin on Thursday.

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The Associated Press

Chris Chiozza dished 11 assists and scored eight points on 3-of-9 shooting in Florida's win over St. Bonaventure on Thursday.



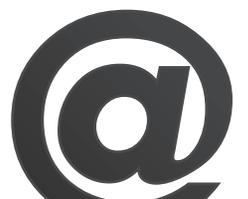
Florida diver **Brooke Madden** finished 13th overall in the 1-meter dive at the NCAA Championships on Thursday. She was one of nine UF athletes to compete in Columbus.

THE MADNESS BEGINS

Aside from Florida's 77-62 win against St. Bonaventure on Thursday, notable outcomes on Day 1 of the NCAA Tournament included No. 3 Texas Tech besting No. 14 Stephen F. Austin 70-60, No. 4 Arizona falling to No. 13 Buffalo 89-68 and No. 11 Loyola-Chicago defeating No. 6 Miami 64-62.

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FAMILY, FAITH AND BASEBALL:

Andrew Baker's evolution from little league novice to UF two-way player

By Morgan McMullen
Sports Writer

Andrew Baker leaned forward with his hands on his knees. He oozed a confidence and swagger that would have made Muhammad Ali blush.

He'd taken a hefty lead off second base in the bottom of the sixth inning in what had slowly become a 10-1 drubbing of Siena in the third game of Florida's 2018 season. Saints pitcher Danny Hobbs took a step off the rubber, turned and cocked his right arm toward Andrew, who took three quick strides back to the bag before abruptly stopping in his tracks.

Nobody was covering second base.

Hobbs never threw the ball. He only took a fleeting glance at Andrew before turning his attention back to his pitching routine. So when Andrew halted just before he reached the bag, Hobbs missed an opportunity to see the side of Andrew's personality that makes so many of his teammates smile.

The energetic sophomore pumped his fists at his sides and made an exaggerated running motion toward the base before extending his arms into a mock slide. He then slyly glanced back at Hobbs, daring the pitcher to do something about his tomfoolery.

There's no guarantee that Andrew will see the field tonight at 7 in UF's SEC opener on the road against South Carolina. While he has been a reliable reserve, Florida's depth chart places him firmly in the dugout most games.

But through it all, Andrew maintains his playful temperament. Understanding his humor is vital in getting to know him. Though his life was beset by a medical emergency that almost tore the seams of his family apart, his competitive spirit, jocularly and faith has kept him grounded and focused while also lifting him up.

For all his parents know, Andrew was literally born to play baseball. His mother, Patricia, remembers trying to take a family portrait when he was a toddler. The photographer gave Andrew a ball to hold as a prop. He placed it in



Courtesy of UAA Communications

Pitcher/outfielder Andrew Baker has gained a reputation for being one of the funnier players on Florida's roster.

Andrew's right hand.

"Andrew just transitioned it over to his left," Patricia said. "And me being the momma, I took it out and put it back in the right, because I only know how to deal with right-hand kids."

But Andrew wouldn't cooperate. He swapped it over to his left once more.

"My dad said, 'This is going to be my left-handed baseball player,'" Patricia recalled.

Andrew, currently a pitcher and outfielder for the Gators, grew up in the suburbs of Haines City, Florida, just off the north shore of Little Lake Hamilton. The Baker family household sits on a quiet, winding backstreet in front of a vast expanse of open fields and orange

groves.

Andrew and his older siblings, Antrice and Anthony II, would walk to Alta Vista Elementary School, a third of a mile north from where they lived. However, simply walking back home afterward was never an option in young Andrew's mind.

"He'd race... anybody who wanted it," Anthony II said. "He's a natural competitor."

The Bakers decided Andrew needed an outlet. He tried his hand at flag football first. The coaches played him at quarterback. Even with his age, Anthony II estimated Andrew could throw the football 25-30 yards downfield.

But Patricia wasn't a fan of the activity.

While Anthony II was starting to make a name for himself as a linebacker at Haines City High School, she didn't want to linger on the prospect of her youngest boy growing up playing a full-contact sport.

"Football is not for my baby," Antrice remembered her mother saying.

Anthony I, Andrew's father, convinced Andrew to play a different sport. The pastor of 33 years and former Marine suggested he try the game his father had taught him while growing up: baseball.

When Andrew was 5 years old, he gave it a shot. He started playing for the Haines City Sharks, a local little league team.

He exceeded everybody's expectations. Though his family knew Andrew had a cannon for an arm even at such a young age, folks were taken aback at how he could throw a laser from center field to the plate while sporting a Sunday church belt looped around the waistband of his uniform and a knockoff Walmart glove.

"We were totally clueless," Antrice said. "We pretty much just threw Andrew out there and he was naturally," she paused as if to ponder the absurdity of it all, "just good at it."

• • •

Andrew remembers attending his father's church, Faith Kingdom, almost every day growing up. As Andrew went to his dad's services, Anthony I became aware of the intersection between baseball and faith, and how it could help his son.

"Don't let any obstacles change your life," Anthony I would tell Andrew. "It doesn't matter if you think you should be playing and the coaches won't allow you to play. Your steps are ordered by God."

Though his family contested otherwise, a young Andrew was convinced he wasn't performing well with the Sharks.

"I was just a little kid," he said. "I wasn't sure if I should keep playing."

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UF kicks off spring practice today at the Sanders Practice Fields



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

First-year football coach Dan Mullen and the Florida Gators are opening up their four-week-long spring practice schedule today at 4:25 p.m.

FOOTBALL, from pg. 18

crew," he said, "they know what they are doing."

2. What will the new offense look like?

This one should be answerable by the spring game. It might not be as fine-tuned as Mullen would like, but by April 14, his offense should be ready enough to show off.

It'll be hard to judge its capabilities based on a scrimmage, but quarterback Feleipe Franks claims the new offense is very graspable and easy to learn, especially for quarterbacks.

"It's something different than what we had with coach Nuss," Franks added.

One would hope so after former offensive coordinator Doug Nussmeier's Gators were 108th in points per game and 110th in yards per game last season.

At Mississippi State, meanwhile, Mullen's Bulldogs ranked 41st in points per game and 46th in yards per game.

"They were able to put a lot of points on the board in big games,"

UF wideout Josh Hammond said, "and, you know, we are just really excited."

3. Who will start at quarterback?

Someone has to start the spring game, but it's very unlikely Mullen commits to that starter, whoever it ends up being, before the fall.

"I don't worry about that," he said. "It's spring to me."

He's more concerned with getting players to give maximum effort and getting as many deserving guys on the field as possible. But again, someone has to do it.

His options are Franks, red-shirt sophomore Kyle Trask, red-shirt freshman Jake Allen and true freshman Emory Jones. Mullen said while he'll be all over the field during spring practices, he'll pay special attention to that group, so he'll get a thorough chance to evaluate them all. And he'll give anyone who earns it time on the field.

"We might play more than one," Mullen said. "It's guys earning the right to get on the field."

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COLUMN, from pg 18

which team would be more exciting to watch. Although Oklahoma was a mediocre team at best and ultimately lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to Rhode Island on Thursday, the Sooners possessed one of college basketball's most exciting NBA prospects in Young, a freshman point guard who led the NCAA in

scoring this season.

Why wouldn't you want someone like Young playing on the biggest stage of college basketball? His name alone brings national attention and gives people an added reason to watch the NCAA Tournament.

From that standpoint, it doesn't matter if another team was more deserving of the space OU occupied. No team that was

left out had as big a star as Young on its roster. As long as the Sooners had a decent record and a couple of good wins to their name, they were going to make the tournament.

I can understand the other side of this argument.

From a statistics standpoint, Oklahoma shouldn't have made the tournament. USC, who finished second in the Pac-12 stand-

ings and made it to the conference championship game, got snuffed for a team in the Sooners that finished seventh in the Big 12.

Saint Mary's — another snub — won 28 of its 33 games this season, including a victory over then-No. 13 Gonzaga. Oklahoma, on the other hand, lost 13 of 31 games including an embarrassing defeat to Iowa State.

But, none of that stuff matters.

With a polarizing figure like Young on the Sooners, it isn't difficult to see how Oklahoma made the NCAA Tournament. Even it lost on Thursday, the selection committee made the right call.

Jake Dreilinger is the Alligator's assistant sports editor. Contact him at jdreilinger@alligator.org.

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