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Taylor Marks / Alligator Staff

Siblings 6-year-old Bryce and 8-year-old Lydia Wells hold a sign saying "Keep us safe" at the Gainesville March for Our Lives event on Bo Diddley Plaza on Saturday.

UF WINS SERIES OVER RAZORBACKS

Florida survived a late rally to beat Arkansas by one on Sunday, **pg. 14**



March For Our Lives

Read stories from the marches in Gainesville and D.C., **pg. 8**

UF to get new baseball stadium

The Board of Trustees approved the plans, **pg. 10**

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Today's Weather



AM



NOON



PM

HIGH 70° LOW 60°

Local Events / News in Brief

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

UF Sikhism

The UF Sikh Students Association will host Turban Day from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday on Turlington Plaza. The event aims to make UF students aware about Sikhism and give a chance to do something out of the ordinary by experiencing someone else's culture. 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. After 9/11, Sikhs across the U.S. have been targeted because of their turbans. The association is trying to change people's perception about Sikh faith. For more information, contact 352-877-0407.

Authors@UF: Whitney Sanford

Whitney Sanford's book, "Living Sustainably: What Intentional Communities Can Teach Us about Democracy, Simplicity, and Nonviolence," illustrates how groups of intentional communities are living out values such as nonviolence, social equity and sustainability. She will discuss her book at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Smathers Library, Room 100. Between 2011 and 2015, Sanford visited more than 20 intentional

communities across the U.S., including ecovillages, cohousing communities and Catholic worker houses and farms to see how these communities translate values into actual practices of eating, building and governing. Their ongoing demonstrations showcase choices and trade-offs in attempting to live sustainably, and their experiments can help us think through solutions in our own communities.

Libraries closed for Easter

Alachua County Library District will be closed for Easter all day Sunday. All branches will be closed. Book drops at branches and online services through the Library District's eBranch at aclib.us will be available. All 12 branch locations and two bookmobiles will resume their regular schedules April 2. For more information, visit aclib.us or call 352-334-3900.

Take Back the Night

Strive UF will hold "Take Back the Night March and Rally to End Sexual Violence" from 5:30 to 9 p.m. April 4 on the Plaza of the Americas. Survivors are invited to speak on the nature of their sexual assault and recovery. Free T-shirts or tank tops are available for the first 300 marchers. For more information, call 352-273-



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

4450.

National Library Week

During National Library Week, which is April 8 to 14, Alachua County Library District joins libraries nationwide to celebrate the many ways libraries lead their communities with the transformative services, programs and expertise they offer. Celebrations include National Library Workers Day on April 10 and National Bookmobile Day on April 11.

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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SWIMMING

Dressel shatters records, steals show at NCAA Championships

By Sam Campisano
Sports Writer

For the fourth consecutive year, the Texas men's swimming and diving team finished first at the NCAA Championships.

However, you wouldn't have known it by looking at most national news outlets covering the meet. Instead, the focus was on Florida senior Caeleb Dressel.

Dressel stole the show at the NCAA Championships in Minneapolis this week-

end, setting American, NCAA and UF records in the 50 free, 100 free and 100 fly.

Dressel became the first person in history to swim the 50 free in under 18 seconds on Thursday, recording a time of 17.81 in his lead-off leg of the 200 free relay. Just a few

hours later, he broke the record again with a time of 17.63 in the finals of the 50 free.

"He's really good every time he swims it. He gets a better feel for it and corrects

SEE **SWIMMING**, PAGE 14

One of the 17 Parkland victims had been accepted to UF

By Paige Fry
Alligator Staff Writer

Zach Huang planned to ask one of his best friends and on-and-off crush Carmen Schentrup to senior prom, but not before texting her to see if she was OK with it.

The two knew each other since middle school, when Carmen moved to Parkland in 2012. They became friends as sophomores at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School when added to a mutual group chat. Then, they started hanging out with friends.

Together, they watched and laughed at the worst-rated movies they could find or some of Carmen's picks, like superhero movies or "Star Wars."

On Feb. 14, they walked together after lunch to third period and exchanged their usual sarcastic banter before splitting up with a funny yell of "Goodbye!"

It was the last time Huang would see her.

During her last period, Advanced Placement Psychology, a shooter shattered the window of Carmen's classroom on the first floor of the freshman building, said her father, Philip Schentrup. He said authorities told him the

accused gunman stuck the barrel of the gun through the window and shot rapidly and randomly.

Four bullets struck Carmen, taking her life a week before her 17th birthday.

At the end of the six-minute shooting, 17 lives were taken and more than a dozen were injured.

Just five days earlier, Carmen received a letter from UF. She was one of 14,866 accepted.

UF was one of her options. She dreamed of being a medical researcher.

She vigorously played piano and read books. She was a straight-A student. She learned German fluently enough through mobile apps to act as a translator for her family's trip to Germany, which she planned herself.

"She was the kind of kid who you didn't have to push," Philip said. "She would do things all on her own."

Before news broke of the shooting, the Schentrups' youngest daughter, Evelyn, sent her mom a text saying she was OK.

April Schentrup, the principal of nearby Pembroke Pines Elementary School, didn't know what it was about. She later found out there was a shoot-

ing at her children's high school. Carmen wasn't answering.

Huang drove from hospital to hospital to try to find her. After hours of searching, he found himself in the nearby Marriott hotel with other friends of Carmen as everyone waited for information.

Around 2 a.m., Carmen's mother walked up to him. The FBI just told them Carmen was dead, she said to him.

A friend's father had to drive Huang home after he slammed his fist into a pole and shouted out in frustration. When he got home, he couldn't go inside. He threw his phone into the bushes and ran. He sat on top of the sign leading into his neighborhood. He went back to retrieve his phone and sat on the sign again. He started typing what had happened that day. What happened to Carmen. He wanted to remember.

After hours of sitting outside, he laid in bed but couldn't sleep.

He would never see her again. "One of the brightest minds out there is gone forever," he said.

See the rest of the story online at alligator.org.



Courtesy to The Alligator

Carmen Schentrup, 16, was one of the 17 victims of the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

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UF students raise more than \$3 million for Dance Marathon



Mari Faiello / Alligator Staff

UF Dance Marathon staff members hold up signs revealing the total amount of money raised this year: \$3,026,420.19. The money will be donated to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

By Mari Faiello

Alligator Contributing Writer

When the white "3" sign was lifted, more than 800 people cheered and put their arms up in an "O" to look like the Dance Marathon's hot air balloon logo Sunday. A new record had been set.

After 26.2 hours of dancing and standing at the O'Connell Center, UF Dance Marathon organizers held up white signs to reveal the organization had raised \$3,026,420.19 for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, a nonprofit that raises money for children hospitals.

In 2017, the yearlong effort raised \$2.7 million, said Ashleigh Braun, a 22-year-old captain on the Dance Marathon public relations team.

"I think every year we just con-

tinue to evolve and grow and just trying to build off of the previous year," the UF journalism senior said.

Lindsey Breneman, a UF journalism sophomore, said her feet were swollen from standing and dancing all weekend, but the miracle families inspired her to continue.

"We worked our butts off all year long," the 20-year-old said.

UF President Kent Fuchs was also at the event Sunday to receive the Community Person of the Year award. He was recognized after he donated \$10,000.

Emily Boulter, a Dance Marathon spokesperson, said this was the first time Fuchs had donated.

"We are so supportive of all the help he has given our cause," the 21-year-old UF health education and behavior senior said.

UF counselor remembered for kindness, saving lives

SHE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST FEMALE COUNSELORS AT UF.

By Robert Lewis

Alligator Staff Writer



Albers-Seldman

Roberta Albers-Seldman was a woman before her time.

She championed mental health at UF at a time when it wasn't respected, helping people through

difficult situations by sharing encouraging quotes, genuine love and words of support.

Albers-Seldman, who started her as the University Athletic Association's psychologist, staying there for 15 years, and later joining UF's Counseling & Wellness Center to tend to anyone at UF, died March 13 from a thoracic aortic aneurysm, said UF soccer coach Becky Burleigh.

"That smile of hers is something I'll never forget for the rest of my life, and I'll carry it in my heart forever," said Livia Ledbetter, a UF sociology and women's studies junior.

Ledbetter, 20 said Albers-Seldman was one of the first female counselors at UF.

Ledbetter was out of town when a counselor at the CWC called to say Albers-Seldman had died.

"I heard those words and everything stopped," Ledbetter said.

Ledbetter first met with Albers-Seldman in May 2016 when Ledbetter was a sophomore. She kept making appointments because she said Albers-Seldman truly understood her.

"I could write a whole book about how amazing she was," Ledbetter said. "She made me feel validated, loved and accepted."

Burleigh said Albers-Seldman was an advocate for mental health at a time when it was stigmatized, especially in sports.

She described Albers-Seldman as someone who could make anyone feel like they were the only person in the room.

"Roberta probably never realized the impact she had on so many people," Burleigh said.

Peter Nguyenho, a UF psychology junior, wrote in an email that Albers-Seldman helped him find reasons to live as he grappled with depression and suicidal thoughts.

"I will always remember her for saving my life," 20-year-old Nguy-

enho said. "Dr. Seldman never once judged me for any of the things I opened up to her about."

When he found out about her death, he met with a counselor at the CWC and broke down, he said.

After the session, he went into Albers-Seldman's office, where he had sat across from her before, telling her his fears and thoughts. He sat in her chair and cried.

"I feel if Dr. Seldman was here right now, she would give me a warm hug, place her hand on my shoulder, and tell me everything will be okay and that life is still beautiful," he said.

The Standard pays fine, paints mural as part of negotiation

By Christina Morales

Alligator Staff Writer

Surrounded by plastic tarps and paint cans, Yonhiki No Saru drew abstract monkeys on a wall of The Standard Gainesville's parking garage on four panels.

The four colorful murals added to The Standard Gainesville's parking garage on Northwest Third Avenue, facing the Krispy Kreme Doughnuts on Southwest 13th Street, are part of a negotiation with the City of Gainesville for an encroachment on the Florida Department of Transportation's property when the complex's parking garage was built in 2017. The company overbuilt on the property by less than 10 feet, said Chip Skinner, a city spokesperson.

With these murals, LM Gainesville, LLC, which built the complex, would also have to pay \$75,000 to the city. It was part of the compromise the company struck with the city as a reasonable cost instead of rebuilding the garage.

"Reconstructing that is not economically feasible," Skinner said. "It really didn't make much sense to demolish it and reconstruct it. It would've cost them a bit more money than that \$75,000 fine."

He said it was in the interest of the city to not make The Standard tear down its building and tie up the traffic in the area.

The situation with the encroachment was unique when the 10-story apartment complex sprung up across the street from UF's campus, Skinner said.

"We've never had a building built to that magnitude within the city," he said.

The encroachment does not affect pedestrians or traffic and doesn't pose as a hazard to fire rescue response, he said.

Assistant Fire Chief Stephen Hesson said the Gainesville Fire Rescue is not concerned with the required fire department access needed in the event there was a fire in the building. The fire department has the 20 feet it needs for its vehicles, even with the encroachment.

"It's typical when we set up our apparatus to block a lane of traffic or an entire road because our trucks are so big," he said. "This protects firefighters working around the truck."

He said the department has different tactics, like a sprinkler system inside the building, in case of a fire. He said the building's fire response systems are unique due to the size of the building.

"It requires additional attention and resources," he said. "It presents a unique challenge, and obviously we are capable to deal with a fire there, but it wouldn't be a routine fire for us."



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

Four colorful murals of monkeys were added to a wall of The Standard Gainesville's parking garage on Northwest Third Avenue as part of a negotiation with the City of Gainesville. The building encroaches on the Florida Department of Transportation's property by less than 10 feet.

In their own words: Students explain why they marched

By Meryl Kornfield
Alligator Staff Writer



Max Baron, a UF English and history sophomore and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School alumnus, traveled to D.C. to march. There, he listened to current Stoneman Douglas students recount the Valentine's Day shooting at their school.

"The reason that I'm here is that the shooting on February 14th didn't just hit too close to home, it was home for me. Once I saw there was a trip being organized by friends of mine who also went to Stoneman Douglas to go to the March For Our Lives national protest in D.C., I immediately hopped on board and decided this was something I definitely wanted (to) get behind. It's one of the first protests I've done in my life, and I'm really excited for it. I hope for a strong turnout, to show that most of the country is on our side for sensible gun control, but also

that we represent the lives that were lost there and remember the fallen. My sign says 'we are the change we've been waiting for'. There's a bunch of young people out here for this protest who have been inspired to create this entire movement at Stoneman Douglas and elsewhere around the country. My sign embodies that, so that is why I wanted to write that on there."



Ricardo Rauseo, a UF political science and international studies senior and student senator, heard about the bus trip and said he needed to go to represent other students.

"I was interested because that high school was 20 minutes away from my home in Weston. I decided this is something I care about, and this is a movement I can get behind. This type of peaceful protest doesn't happen in my home country, Venezuela. I'm going to see how it is in the United States. I went to the Richard Spencer protest last year, so this will be my second protest. The media has framed it so much as like 'They're kids, they don't know the law. We're adults; we're the ones that

make the law.' If you are old enough to be a victim of gun violence, then you are old enough to see gun laws change. People say 'They can't vote,' but they are still part of our society, and if that were the case, we wouldn't have any laws regarding kids at all. No one deserves to go through what they went through."



As Adam Rachlin, a UF political science and family, youth and community sciences sophomore and Stoneman Douglas alumnus, rode a bus for more than 12 hours to march in D.C., he poured over pages of a book about the Second Amendment. He highlighted quotes he thought were meaningful, so he could "understand the other side," he said.

"When it comes to gun reform, it's something I've studied for roughly the past five or six years, even before any of this happened. When the shooting in Aurora, Colorado, where a man shot up a movie theater, happened, it really affected me. Since then I've been trying to figure out why this happens, why people have access to these types of guns. I want to march for this because one of the pillars of 'March For Our Lives' is a ban on assault weapons. It's a controversial idea, but I think it's something that needs to happen. Not only is it apparent that these weapons are only used for mass destruction

or mass killings, there is no other use for them. The Second Amendment is a very loose amendment. It's the shortest of the amendments. Just because something back in the day made sense, it might not make sense anymore, and I think politicians need to see that. Organizations like the National Rifle Association need to stay out of politics. That's what is making these politicians lean more toward a loose gun reform agenda. Through March For Our Lives, people are showing they don't want that anymore. They want more gun reform. Ninety-seven percent of the population agrees we should have universal background checks, especially when it comes to gun shows, where you can go and buy a gun really easily. Stuff like that needs to be regulated more. I'm not only marching for the 17 lives, but for any life taken through gun violence. This isn't just about school shootings, this is about shootings that happen in communities where gun violence is an everyday thing. The outcry for help is very apparent from how many people are going to march. It's not just people from Parkland, it's people from every city in the entire county. That's so important, and it's so important to be a part of this. That's why I march."



Jaimie Ivers, a UF public relations sophomore, helped plan the bus trip for UF students. She posted messages on Facebook student groups looking for students interested in going. She said she did it because she wants to support her alma mater, Stoneman Douglas. She planned to carry a sign that read "Positive Passionate Proud to be the change" to the march.

"Cameron Kasky, one of the Stoneman Douglas students leading the #NeverAgain movement, lives three doors down from me. I was in drama with him and Alex Wind, and now they are on the cover of 'Time.' When all the #NeverAgain kids started, it inspired me to do something here at UF. Details about

the shooter and his life made it clear he is not someone who should have a gun. It's not even just one issue, it's so many: lack of communication, mental health. There was so many things wrong with the situation, something needed to be done. The result of the march should be a change in our laws, but I think it will take time. It won't happen all of a sudden, but a march on Washington is part of it. It's everyone that participates. There's been people reaching out. There's an overwhelming amount of people of all ages. The fact that it is happening worldwide is a good thing because I think we need to see how embarrassing that this happens here. I hope America is embarrassed."

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Editorial

We are the generation that is going to change the world

This Saturday, thousands of people came together in streets across the country with signs in their hands and a mission in their hearts.

According to CBS, more than 200,000 people attended the main March for Our Lives protest in Washington, D.C., and organizers of the event put the overall number of protesters close to 800,000. In total, an estimated 800 marches were held in cities across the nation. These protests come a little more than a year after the Women's March took place, the largest single-day protest in U.S. history.

Over the past month, we have watched high school students lobby in Tallahassee and D.C. We have watched those who are still considered to be too immature to drive a car or buy a beer change the course of history. We have seen them fight for a better and safer America. We have seen our generation demonstrate a power unlike any other, and prove they will change the future.

Some of the most significant changes in our nation's history came from people just like the ones who are spending their weekends protesting, marching and lobbying for a better future. Our nation's independence was catalyzed by a pivotal protest: the Boston Tea Party, the original American protest.

In 1913, 8,000 demonstrators marched the streets of Washington, D.C. to fight for women's rights to vote. After seven more years of adherent determination, their goal was achieved. In 1993, 800,000 people gathered on the National Mall to fight for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. The march helped the community to gain recognition across the country and since then, same-sex marriage has been legalized and significant strides have been made in terms of HIV and AIDS research.

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. showed Americans the power of a peaceful protest when he led marchers from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial and presented his famed "I Have a Dream" speech. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed shortly after that, changing the course of American history.

And let's not forget about the Vietnam War demonstrations which lasted through the duration of the 20-year war. These protests led to the termination of the draft and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam.

The aforementioned demonstrations are just a snippet of the power protests have had in American history. Nearly every major change we've seen, both in recent and distant history, came as a result of people who would refuse to sit down and accept what they felt wasn't right. Our generation is no different.

For the past 20 years or so, we've seen a lull in protests and pause in the stark determination among American people. Sure, Americans have voiced discontent, but it's been years since we've seen organized rallies like the ones mentioned above. Our generation is changing that.

We understand for some people it is hard to see the point of these protests. That's because change takes time. It takes continuous effort and struggle. It takes miles of marching and hours of lobbying. It takes unique voices and fearless leaders. It takes courage, and it takes more than a week to achieve.

The impacts of the recent marches like the Women's March and the March For Our Lives are yet to be seen. Nonetheless, we know it's coming.

We know our generation is working effortlessly to take advantage of the First Amendment rights and take back our country.

We couldn't be prouder.

Melissa Gomez	Abby Miller	Caitlin Ostroff	Jimena Tavel
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Column

Make sure you know what can actually be recycled

From as early as elementary school, we were correctly taught to minimize our negative impact on the environment. We were also told recycling is a fundamental way to do so. Somewhere along the line, however, in the hopes of teaching as many people as possible to recycle, its original purpose was lost.

Nowadays, many people feel a guilt trip, almost an anxiety, to recycle every last piece of their garbage. When the thought of what can actually be recycled creeps into our minds, most of us throw the object in question into the recycle bin and hope for the best. However, incorrectly recycling can hurt the reason to recycle in the first place.

The essential purpose of recycling is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that can hinder human health. The superfluous feeling of "doing one's part" or "feeling green" comes secondary to preserving our quality of life.

The success of recycling comes down to its economic value. If companies cannot profit from reusing materials, they have no incentive to use recycled materials. Unfortunately, the market value for recyclables has decreased dramatically over the past eight years, as much as 45 percent in some areas.

The problem comes down to contamination and waste ending up in the wrong place. Waste management, which has more than 100 recycling facilities throughout the country, reports more than 16 percent of what is thrown away in recycle bins is unrecoverable, driving down the value of recycled materials.

Once thrown away, garbage does not magically disappear from the curbside. Haulers pick up recyclables and transport them to a facility that separates recycled materials to maximize profitability. However, all of this time and effort that must be diverted to remove something that can't be recycled actually increases the cost of recycling and decreases the recyclables' value. Rising costs have shut down recycling facilities, and lower values hurt the chances of businesses reusing materials.



Joshua Udvardy
opinions@alligator.org

If people want a legitimate reason to feel good about recycling, they must increase the value of their individual recycling bins. To do so, people must avoid contamination at all costs. As soon as paper becomes wet or handled with food, it cannot be thrown in the recycle bin. Although we were all taught from a young age how bad plastic is for the environment, plastics lids and containers from restaurants are not recyclable. There should be a number from the Society of Plastics Industry on every plastic product, and plastic usually can't be recycled if the number is greater than two.

And for the love of former Vice President Al Gore, please stop recycling plastic bags. Even putting your recyclables in a plastic bag can be a huge detriment to the entire process. Not only are plastic bags not recyclable, but they can also get stuck in machinery at recycling facilities and bring the whole sorting process to a costly halt. Even if there is some sort of guilt from using regular trash bins, preventing a few non-recyclables from contaminating the recycling stream can help the overall process.

The solution is simple: People should only recycle what they are absolutely sure can be recycled.

In fact, it's best to only focus on three types waste: aluminum cans, plastic bottles and cardboard boxes. By far, recycling aluminum cans significantly offsets more potential carbon dioxide emissions than any other recyclable material. Plastic bottles are easy to recognize, and Americans use a lot of them. And as shopping online continues to take over our lives, the cardboard shipping boxes in the waste stream does the same.

The first step was encouraging Americans to recycle. Now that the country has succeeded in the everyday American consciously thinking about what they throw away, it is time to shift toward educating Americans on recycling correctly.

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

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

Column

To better children's education, pay attention to how much they eat

I took for granted that, throughout my childhood and teenage years, I could stroll into the kitchen, open up the refrigerator and find something to eat within seconds. I've never understood the true meaning of the word "starving." I've never worried about having access to breakfast, lunch or dinner. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for all kids in this country. And this is something we need to address at the local, state and national levels.

According to the American Youth Policy Forum, almost 50 million Americans experience some kind of food insecurity during their life. This means they either have little access to healthy foods or sporadic access to food at all.

Other troubling studies, these conducted by the Urban Institute, indicate that 6.8 million students between the ages of 10 and 17 do not get consistent meals at home as a result of food insecurity.

How can we expect the next generation of leaders, scholars, activists, teachers and citizens to learn and grow if they don't have food on the table? Can we blame the middle-schooler for doing poorly on his test if he spent the night before wondering if he'd eat dinner? Is it really appropriate to penalize a 17-year-old for failing to finish her homework if she works every weeknight to help her parents feed her family?

In our quest to improve the quality of our educational standards and change the way our students learn, we often ignore the tangled web of factors that influence the lives of children and teens. It's especially easy to forget to address problems that lie beneath the surface of other people's lives — problems we may not see directly unless we walked into each of their homes or met each of their families.

It's also frighteningly easy to forget just how much hunger can affect all facets



Mia Gettenberg
opinions@alligator.org

of one's life if, like me, you've never truly experienced it.

The American Youth Policy Forum also reports, following studies from the National Institutes of Health, food insecurity and malnourishment can lead to greater mental health problems, behavioral issues, social anxieties and disciplinary actions at school. Further, food

insecurity puts kids at a higher risk of missing school and failing to graduate.

When we learn about startling statistics and facts like the ones above, we must work to counteract them. So what can we do to help combat food insecurity?

For one, we can donate to local food pantries and kitchens that serve our local communities. At UF, for example, we have the Field and Fork Pantry, which allows members of the university community to take food and groceries to feed themselves and their families, usually for up to a week at a time. Programs like these may help folks in your classes, the staff at various campus facilities or even your next-door neighbor.

We can also pressure our elected officials to pledge to allocate more funds toward schoolwide programs like free and reduced lunches — and to make sure schools include healthy options. These politicians work for us, and to that end, they should ensure the needs of our children are met when those kids venture off to their schools each morning.

All in all, problems with our educational system must also be seen in the context of other concerns, from food and health to transportation and infrastructure. Making this country even just a little better for our children will require holistic solutions that go further than looking at issues in the classroom.

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

Letter to the Editor

An open letter to President Kent Fuchs: Wendy's needs to be kicked off campus

Dear UF President Kent Fuchs,
We are writing to you on behalf of a multitude of concerned students at UF over the egregious human rights violations. These include child labor, sexual violence and slavery, flourishing with impunity in the Mexican export agriculture industry where Wendy's buys its tomatoes.

Over the past four years, students and faculty at UF have demanded Wendy's be removed from campus until the fast-food company joins the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Presidential Medal-winning Fair Food Program.

The FFP is a world-renowned human rights initiative that ensures humane wages and dignified working conditions by harnessing the purchasing power of more than a dozen of the world's largest retail food brands.

In a few short years, the FFP has radically transformed conditions for more than 52,000 workers on farms from Florida to New Jersey.

A CNN special report features the eye-opening story of a tomato picker named Alejandrina Carrera, who contrasts the nightmare of being fired from a farm in Florida after being sexually assaulted by a male supervisor with the new reality of working under the groundbreaking protections of the FFP.

In Carrera's words, "You're not going to be harassed, you're not going to be insulted, you're not going to be forced to work. There's more respect now."

All of the major fast-food corporations — McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, Taco Bell, KFC and Chipotle Mexican Grill — have joined and are enforcing the FFP's golden standard of human rights in their supply chains. All except Wendy's.

We condemn UF's complicity in the ongoing epidemic of sexual harassment, assault and other human rights violations by allowing Wendy's to continue leasing space on our campus.

We are aware the Wendy's on campus is owned and operated by FFP buyer Aramark, UF's food service provider since 1995. The UF administration has refused to take steps to cut ties with Wendy's because it claims the

fruits and vegetables used for Wendy's burgers and salads sold on campus are procured through Aramark's supply chain and therefore sourced from FFP-certified farms.

We are very proud of the courageous student movement at UF that spurred the momentous agreement between CIW and Aramark in 2010; however, that is not an acceptable answer to our demands for removing a corporation that profits from women's suffering from our campus.

UF does not tolerate sexual harassment and abuse of any kind on campus. No questions asked. So why put UF's reputation at risk by meddling in business with a company that unconscionably refuses to take meaningful action to eradicate sexual violence and other human rights abuse in its supply chain?

It is no secret thousands of farmworker women are forced into silence by the grabbing clutches of fear, violence and corruption that define the agricultural industry in Mexico.

In the era of #MeToo, we must lift up real, enforceable solutions to stamp out and prevent sexual harassment and assault in the workplace — and hold corporate giants like Wendy's responsible for failing to rid their supply chains of human rights violations.

As stakeholders of all matters tied to UF, we will not accept the influence and presence of a fast-food brand on campus that looks the other way as farmworker women sacrifice their dignity to feed their families.

We urge you, Mr. Fuchs, to use your power and unyielding compassion to uphold UF's commitment to "demonstrate respect for human dignity" to all by removing Wendy's from our campus.

We're requesting to meet with you in person before the end of the academic term to discuss this important and timely matter.

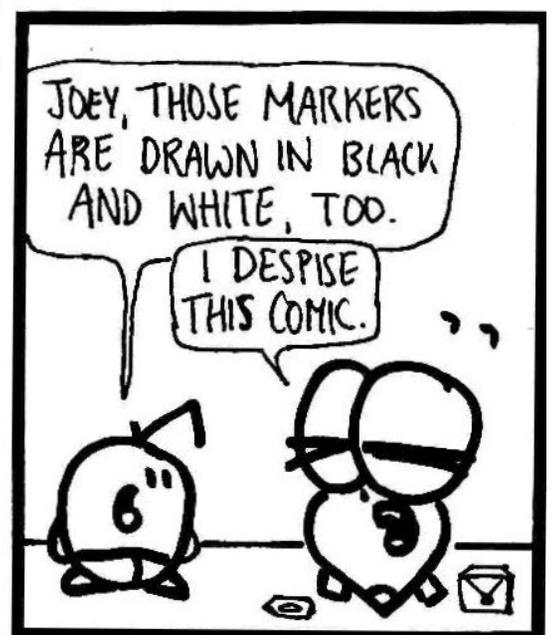
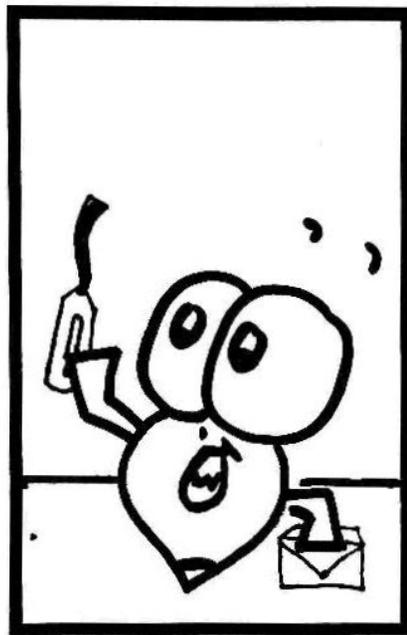
We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Lucero Ruballos
Vice President, Chispas UF

Chispas UF is a pro-immigrant student organization at UF.

Lifeless Joey

By Michael Smith



Nearly 1,300 protest at Gainesville March For Our Lives



Taylor Marks/Alligator Staff

Gainesville Mayor Lauren Poe calls students from kindergarten through college to the front of the stage on Bo Diddley Community Plaza, saying, "This day is for you!"



Will Clewis/Alligator Staff

From left: Hawthorne residents Sally Ringo, 67, and Michele Tanner, 71, chant after marching. Tanner holds a copy of the U.S. Constitution and a "Disarm Hate" sign.

By Amanda Rosa and Jessica Giles

Alligator Staff Writers

Eleven-year-old Aagmeya Banerjee brought a crowd of about 1,250 to its feet.

Not only was he the youngest speaker, but he was the only one to receive a standing ovation at the Gainesville March For Our Lives on Bo Diddley Community Plaza on Saturday. Banerjee addressed politicians who don't take children seriously in the discussion of gun reform.

"Stop talking to kids like we are idiots," he told them.

Banerjee was among the marchers who spilled onto West University Avenue at about 2 p.m. to protest gun violence and demand stricter gun laws in Gainesville. The demonstration was one of more than 840 protests worldwide as marchers called for stricter gun laws and to weaken the National Rifle Association's political influence.

Before marching, protesters rallied on Bo Diddley Plaza, listening to calls for action from political candidates, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School alumni and local officials. Participants were encouraged to donate blood at the blood bus and register to vote at the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections booth.

As she marched, Penelope Dobbins, a sixth-grader at Millhopper Montessori School, raised her voice to the point of cracking as she pleaded for stricter gun laws.

When Penelope watches the news, she sees the U.S. crumbling apart, she said. Although she feels safe going to school, she worries about other children who attend schools with less security.

But Saturday's march put a smile on her face and hope in her heart. Politicians will be forced to

listen, and change will come, she said.

"We're demanding action, and we're going to keep chanting until they hear us," she said.

While one speaker urged Congress to criminalize bump stocks, Mike Ryan Simonovich, a Gainesville resident, bent over to explain what a bump stock is to his 8-year-old son, Yuri.

Yuri is accustomed to the large crowds and thunderous cheers that come with protests. He typically tags along with his father to marches, the polls and city meetings. Yuri said he likes attending the rallies and meetings with his father but prefers the shorter ones.

"I don't like walking for a long time," Yuri said.

Ryan Simonovich feels it's his duty to educate his second-grade son about political issues because he belongs to the next generation of voters. He was thrilled to see so many young people advocating for change. He said he believes the Gainesville protesters sent a strong message.

"I hope that it terrifies the politicians who are in the pockets of the NRA," he said.

No arrests or injuries were reported during the march, said Gainesville Police Department Lt. Jaret Weiland. The event was calm, even with the occasional counter-protester, he said.

GPD's main safety concern was how the march would affect traffic as protesters spilled from the sidewalks into the street. Although the department did not initially plan to block off roads, officers partially blocked off the right lane of West University Avenue. They were stationed along the march route to keep marchers close to the curb, Weiland said.

Bruce Frendahl, a 65-year-old retired architect, watched history repeat itself as he stood on the

sidewalk next to Bo Diddley Plaza. As protesters poured into the center of the plaza, Frendahl recalled the Vietnam protests led by his fellow UF students in the 1970s. He said activism moves in cycles.

"It's coming back around. This is the issue that's firing up the students," he said.

Frendahl tacked a picture of his two grandkids, 10-year-old Abby and 8-year-old Joey, to the middle of his deep blue sign that read, "My grandkids will attend that school. Will it be safe for them then?"

Abby and Joey live in Coral Springs in the same school district as Stoneman Douglas. Frendahl said arming teachers will not keep his grandchildren safe - only gun reform can.

"I just pray to God to keep them safe, and my daughter is doing everything she can to keep them safe," Frendahl said. "There's nothing more that we can do."

Behind many chants along the march were the tribal rhythms of 50-year-old Patrick Brezyan and his djembe, a bongo-style drum of African origin.

For nearly two decades, Brezyan has been bringing his goat-skin Ghanaian djembe to marches all across the U.S., from Chicago to New York City to Gainesville, where the percussionist has lived for the past year and a half.

He said he played his djembe along to protesters' chants Saturday afternoon not for attention, but for unity, a call to action through rhythm.

"The drum can be a powerful thing in a place like this," he said. "It's a tribal thing. It's innate in our bones. It calls on people to come together."

Staff Writer David Hoffman contributed to this report.



Shelbie Eakins/Alligator Staff

Charles Trowbridge, a 75-year-old veteran and Gainesville resident, stands with a flag draped over his shoulders. He called for gun reform.

UF students bus to the Capitol, march for gun reform

Each student paid a \$45 fee to travel from Gainesville to D.C.

By Meryl Kornfield
Alligator Staff Writer

The bus ride up was quiet. After waiting for nearly half an hour to board, the sleepy-eyed UF students were on their way to Washington, D.C.

They had boarded two buses in the UF Commuter Lot during the early hours of Friday. Cradling pillows and blankets for the 12-hour trip each way, they had a mission in mind: protest the death of every victim who has fallen to gun violence, including the 17 who died in a school shooting on Valentine's Day in Parkland, Florida.

Among the students on the bus were about 40 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School alumni, who had seen their hometown in the headlines over the past month.

News outlets have reported estimates of how many people attended the March For Our Lives event, ranging from 180,000 to 800,000. On Saturday morning in 46-degree weather, people from all across the nation stood on Pennsylvania Avenue before a stage set up in front of the U.S. Capitol building.

But before they would make it there, the UF students had to ride out the 12 hours and settle with an "OK, not great" bathroom on the charter bus rentals. They had packed all the winter clothing a Florida kid might

own and handwritten signs advocating for an end to gun violence.

Stoneman Douglas alumnus Adam Rachlin flipped through "The Second Amendment Primer," highlighting passages he found interesting while most of his fellow passengers slept before they got to D.C.

The UF political science and family, youth and community sciences sophomore wanted to make sure he understood the Second Amendment, as well as those on "the other side."

"Just because something back in the day made sense, it might not make sense anymore," the 20-year-old said.

Rachlin and his seatmate Ivana Radovanovic talked about their former high school teachers from Stoneman Douglas to pass time.

Each student on the buses paid a \$45 fee for the trip, including transportation and one night at a hotel in D.C. The Stoneman Douglas alumni from UF raised \$15,000 through a GoFundMe page and T-shirt sales and worked for five weeks to organize the trip.

Brandon Taylor, a UF computer science engineering sophomore and one of the organizers of the UF Stands with MSD group, put in 150 to 200 hours of effort to make the trip possible. He said the fundraising gave the students an opportunity to travel together for cheap.

"There's a large community that

cares," the 20-year-old said.

Once they reached the Comfort Inn in Springfield, Virginia, they dragged themselves off the bus, their limbs stiff and numb. They had time to get a good night's sleep before the Saturday morning protest.

As they devoured waffles and cereal in the hotel's dining hall, they speculated about the expected size of the crowd — they heard there would be about half a million people.

Soon after, they picked up their signs and headed in small groups to the metro stations. Susette Oñate, a 19-year-old UF wildlife ecology and conservation sophomore, told the small group she arrived with that they would tell their kids about that moment in 40 years.

They agreed.

By late morning, the crowd was expanding. Music was blaring, and each sign was another plea for gun reform.

As a group of nine Stoneman Douglas alumni from UF walked toward the main stage, the crowd began to part.

"Make way for Douglas," they chanted. Krishna Naik, 21, in a gray shirt that read "Eagles soar high" to honor her alma mater, led the group past strangers who cleared a path.

"It was so moving," the UF psychology senior said. "I never would have expected people to do that for us."



Meryl Kornfield / Alligator
Gabriella Henderson, a UF psychology freshman, attended March For Our Lives in Washington, D.C. The 18-year-old's sign had names of those killed from about five mass shootings, she said.



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After years of waiting, Norman Hall gets groundbreaking

By Rachel Chang

Alligator Contributing Writer

John Mica, a former Florida congressman and UF education alumnus, held up a letter dated Feb. 4, 1988 during the Norman Hall groundbreaking ceremony Friday.

He said former UF President John Lombardi had sent it to Mica addressing the need for renovations to the education building.

"Sorry, John," Lombardi had written. "I'm a little late."

About 200 politicians, alumni, students and faculty members gathered Friday at Norman Hall Plaza to celebrate the renovation of UF's education college that has been in the making for years. The college marked the occasion with a "groundbreaking ceremony" that included speakers, cake and light refreshments of iced tea and water.

The UF College of Education dean Glenn Good said the college and staff first began planning for this reconstruction in the 1980s.

"As long as I have been dean here at the College of Education, we've been talking about the need for rehabilitation of our beloved Norman Hall," he said.

The \$29 million renovation will take part in two phases, according to Alligator archives. Phase one began in December with Norman library and the third floor of the east Norman building. It is expected to be completed by early May. Phase two will be the rest of Norman with updated classrooms, study spaces and

faculty offices.

Good, UF President Kent Fuchs, Florida congressman Ted Yoho, Mica, UF trustee Anita Zucker, College of Education associate dean Tom Dana and lead architect Joe Walker of Walker Architects were some of the speakers at the ceremony.

"With this project, we return Norman to its former glory," Fuchs said.

Dana, the education associate dean of academic affairs, said Norman Hall construction has already

started on the east side of the building. However, the entire college will be closed off until May 15.

"I'm thrilled that there's going to be some great places for students to hang out," he said.

Zucker, who graduated from the education college in 1972, said the importance of updating Norman and the accomplishments the college has already achieved.

"Seeing what this university is able to bring to other places makes me so proud," she said.

Elementary school students raise \$1,000 for classmate

By Kennedy Smith

Alligator Contributing Writer

Without speaking a word, 7-year-old Janier inspired 750 elementary school students to run as fast as they could.

Janier, whose last name wasn't released due to his age, has a congenital heart defect. He's a first-grade student at Idylwild Elementary School, located at 4601 SW 20th Terrace.

This year, he and his family will receive a portion of the \$1,000 raised during the school's third annual "Running Wild for a Cause Fun Run," an event that raises money for sick Idylwild students and charities. Money also went to the Phoebe Louise Dooley Foundation, a childhood cancer charity, said Dena Robinson, the event founder.

At the event Friday morning, hundreds of tiny bodies clad in colorful parkas scattered around the basketball court. Students shimmied their way into the

"criss-cross applesauce" position as instructed, faces scrunched as they looked longingly to the field on their left, waiting.

Six-year-old Ja'len, whose last name wasn't disclosed by faculty due to his age, said it was his first year at the run, and he was most excited for the music.

"Footloose" and other songs that preceded the students by at least a decade roared over the speakers, controlled by DJ E-LO, better known as the school's front-desk man Eric Lopez.

As Katy Perry's "Roar" began to blast, a stampede of kids charged onto the grassy field.

The kids skipped around the field for about 20 minutes, flailing their arms and stumbling over each other until the DJ herded everyone back.

Administrators sold \$10 T-shirts, \$2 bracelets and parents made online donations to the American Heart Association program "Jump Rope For Heart" to raise money. Each year, the run

raises about \$1,000, Robinson said.

The run began in 2016 after sixth-grader Kylie Galloway-Soto was diagnosed in 2013 with Hodgkin lymphoma, a cancer in the body's immune system rarely seen in kids.

"She's our inspiration," Robinson said. "She's a great kid, and I was like, 'Well, let's do something.'"

Chris Dixon, the 28-year-old Idylwild health education teacher, led the "Jump Rope For Heart" fundraising effort and helped Robinson plan all three Fun Runs.

Dixon said he'd been fundraising for "Jump Rope For Heart" before the Fun Runs existed. Now that he and Robinson are working on the programs together, he sees a greater interest from parents and students.

"The kids love it; the teachers love it," he said. "The environment at Idylwild is like no other."

SG Senate to vote on early voting locations

By Amanda Rosa

Alligator Staff Writer

The UF Student Government Senate might advocate for on-campus early voting locations soon.

On Sunday afternoon, the Judiciary Committee unanimously approved a resolution advocating for on-campus early voting locations at Florida universities. A resolution is a document through which the Senate expresses an opinion or takes a stance. The committee also tabled four bills that intend to revise SG codes.

Senator Katelyn Hernandez (Impact, District C), who co-wrote the resolution, said it advocates for increased early voting accessibility and promotes civic engagement for students.

"We have so many students that want to be politically engaged, and I think that accessibility is a huge part of that," she said.

Judiciary committee chair Nick Adams said he hopes the resolution passes the Senate vote Tuesday night. If approved, the resolution will be sent to several Florida universities as well as

politicians, including Gov. Rick Scott and Secretary of State Ken Detzner.

The committee was originally scheduled to address four code-revision bills presented by Senator Richard German (Inspire, District D). However, Adams deemed the bills unconstitutional because each had merged revisions, and he wanted an individual bill for each revision.

Instead of failing the bills, Adams decided to table them for future discussion, he said. German submitted the code revisions in separate bills Sunday. The committee will most likely look at the bills April 8, German said.

The suggested code revisions, if passed by Senate, would make changes to how SG information is disseminated, including requiring the judiciary branch notices to be advertised by Action SG, an agency that promotes SG activities. Code changes would also add closed captioning to prerecorded SG videos, and live-stream State of the Campus Address and SG debates.

"I'm just really looking forward to seeing them get signed into law," German said.

UF Board of Trustees approves new baseball stadium

By Elliott Nasby

Alligator Staff Writer

The UF Athletic Association has announced plans to build a new baseball stadium off Hull Road, near the Donald R. Dizney Lacrosse Stadium, by 2020.

Plans for the new ballpark were unanimously approved by UF's Board of Trustees at a meeting Friday. The stadium is estimated to cost \$50 million and will now go to the Florida Board of Governors for final approval.

The stadium will have 6,000 seats but an overall capacity of 10,000, with standing room for fans to watch, said UF Athletic Director Scott Stricklin. An additional 400 to 500 parking spots will also be added near the ballpark.

The Trustees also approved \$11 million worth of renovations for the Katie Seashole Pressly Softball Stadium, including expanded seating and shading, Stricklin said. A \$65 million football training facility will be built at the site of the current baseball stadium.

"It gives us a chance to do football right and to do baseball right," he said.

The athletic association will pay UF's Institute of Agricultural Sciences \$3 million over the next five years to buy the land for the baseball stadium, UF spokesperson Margot Winick wrote in an email.

Stricklin said the athletic association wanted a new stadium because shading is crucial for fans, especially for afternoon games in Florida's heat.

The new stadium will have more comfortable seating and increased shading. It will also be designed in a way where fans can mingle and still be able to watch the game, he said.

He hopes the new stadium will attract more people on game days.

"Baseball is such a social sport," Stricklin said after the Trustees' meeting. "People like that kind of gathering and moving around, so we're going to make sure there is space to allow for that."

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A rendering of the proposed baseball stadium.

Courtesy to The Alligator

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BASEBALL

Florida's unsung ace leads UF to series win over No. 4 Arkansas

By **Ethan Bauer**
Sports Writer

William Shakespeare once compared his beloved to a summer's day. Michael Byrne's 2018 season could be compared to something more like a sturdy dam.

As Florida's closer, Byrne is tasked with preserving wins late in games, and he entered Sunday's rubber match against Arkansas with an ERA of 0.00 in 16.2 innings pitched. It's hard to accumulate that kind of stress behind a dam without it breaking. But it's almost like Byrne had been, in the paraphrased words of SpongeBob SquarePants character Patrick Star, taking that water — that pressure — and pushing it somewhere else.

The dam cracked on Sunday. But only a bit.

Byrne humiliated Arkansas' hitters in the seventh and eighth innings, but the No. 4 Razorbacks (17-7, 4-2 SEC) jumped on him in the ninth with a pair of leadoff doubles. Facing runners on second and third with no

outs, Byrne allowed a sacrifice fly that resulted in his first run allowed this season. Nevertheless, he plugged the gushing and No. 2 UF (21-5, 4-2 SEC) picked up a 5-4, series-clinching victory.

"Michael Byrne is just special," coach Kevin O'Sullivan said. "He's just got a different temperament."

That was evident when O'Sullivan visited the mound after the back-to-back doubles from the Razorbacks. He said Byrne was not pleased with his concern and urged him not to worry. And as surely as Shakespeare delivered consistent iambic pentameter, Byrne delivered with a pop out and a groundout.

He finished with one strikeout, no walks, one earned run and tallied his first win of the season. The run was Byrne's first allowed in 26.2 innings — an appropriate distance given its similarity to the length of a marathon — dating back to last year.

"It was a little longer than I've thrown this year," Byrne said, "but it wasn't a big deal."

SEE **BASEBALL**, PAGE 16

Sweet and Bauer / Opinion

Sports reporting has become shallow

I'm pretty sure I've written some variation of this column every semester for as long as I've been writing columns at the Alligator, but it's a topic that really touched me this weekend.

I spent Friday driving to Charleston, South Carolina, to speak with former Sports Illustrated writer Gary Smith. If you've never heard of Smith, he worked at SI for about 30 years and wrote the kinds of stories that would make good movies — about an experienced freediver whose hubris led to his wife's death, about a black basketball coach changing ideas about race and racism in America's Amish community, about a man with a mental disability spending his life as an adopted member of a high school football team. The latter was actually turned into the movie "Radio."

Point being, Smith wrote long, detailed, probing stories that never judged, never lambasted and always conveyed some deeper meaning than a normal, surface-level story.



Ethan Bauer
twitter: @ebaueri

I met with him because, as someone who strives to do the same thing (with considerably less success, obviously), I wanted to try and understand how he seems to be writing from a desk inside his subject's mind.

The main thing I gathered is that he was so successful because he conjured questions that nobody else asked. He'd spend weeks talking with his subjects, zeroing in on important, formative moments that in some way are universal. For Smith, there are no binaries like good and bad — only decisions that, even if you would have chosen differently under the same circumstances, are familiar to everyone.

Yet despite how illuminating his stories can be, I think it's reasonable to assume that if Smith were starting out as a sports writer now, he'd have little — if any — opportunity to produce those kinds of narratives, because depth is not what sells.

Social media and media organizations

SEE **COLUMN**, PAGE 16

Dressel finishes his career with 10 individual national titles



Alan Alvarez / Alligator Staff

Florida senior Caeleb Dressel finished his career with a bang at the NCAA Championships, breaking American, NCAA and UF records in the 50 free, 100 free and 100 fly.

SWIMMING, from pg. 3

the things he needs to correct," UF coach Gregg Troy said in a release. "This one was pretty darn good."

Dressel also became the first person in history to swim the 100 free in under 40 seconds, recording a time of 39.90 in the event on Saturday. His time of 42.80 in the 100 fly on Friday broke his previous record of 43.58 as well.

"Caeleb is just really good," Troy said. "He handled things really well."

Dressel's performance at the NCAA Championships makes him one of the most successful swimmers in collegiate history. He smashed Olympic gold-medalist Ryan Lochte's program record of seven individual national titles with his victories in the 50 free, 100 free and 100 fly. He also led UF to a win in the 200 free relay, increasing his career national titles total to 10.

In addition, Dressel took home seven All-American honors at the meet, giving him 28 over the course of his career — one more than Shaune Fraser's previous program record of 27.

To cap it all off, Dressel won his third consecutive CSCAA Swimmer of the Year award following his record-shattering performance in Minneapolis. It is the first time Dressel has not shared the award with another swimmer.

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Florida softball coach **Tim Walton** and the rest of the Gators are facing Texas A&M tonight at 7 p.m. at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium.

FINAL FOUR BOUND

Villanova and Kansas punched their tickets to the Final Four of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament on Sunday. The Wildcats defeated Texas Tech 71-59, while the Jayhawks beat Duke 85-81. The Final Four will take place on Saturday in San Antonio. Loyola Chicago and Michigan are also set to compete.

Follow us for updates

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



GYMNASTICS

UF falls short on floor, finishes third at SEC Championships



Emma Green / Alligator Staff

Florida senior Alex McMurtry stumbled and fell during her floor routine at the SEC Championships. The Gators eventually finished third in the meet behind LSU and Alabama.

By Alana Gomez

Sports Writer

Alex McMurtry didn't show any signs of anxiety as she took a quick breather and rolled her shoulders back for the final pass of her floor routine.

The Gators were leading Saturday night's SEC Championships after freshman Alyssa Baumann posted a first-place score of 9.975 on beam. All McMurtry needed to do was perform as she always does on floor to help the No. 5 Gators clinch their 11th SEC title.

With one final glance down at the mat, the 15-time All-American sped forward and launched into her final pass. But as she came down from her last flip, she stumbled and fell out of bounds and onto her back.

"It is hard to be one of the routines that had a mistake, but it is a learning lesson," McMurtry said in a release.

At the end of the rotation, Florida dropped from first to fourth place with a score 147.350. It never recovered from McMurtry's mistake, finishing the meet in third behind LSU and Alabama with a score of 196.825.

McMurtry's mishap came just after freshman Megan Skaggs' routine, where she also stumbled on her first pass and ended with a 9.175. Florida's score of 48.400 on floor marked the team's lowest score on the event this season.

"The team was somber after the meet," coach Jenny Rowland said. "They came in hungry and ready, but unfortunately, a couple of falters brought the mood down."

The night didn't start out that way, however. Florida opened the meet as the No. 2 seed in the SEC. The Gators' confidence showed through their opening rotation on bars, where McMurtry took the title with a score of 9.950. McMurtry also placed first in the meet's last event, showing resilience with a 9.975 vault that followed her floor slip up. Keeping the Gators afloat was junior Alicia Boren, who tied for a first-place finish on floor with a score of 9.900 and came in second in the all-around with a score of 39.475.

"There were some well-executed and very confident performances," Rowland said. "We fell short on one event."

Florida won't forget Saturday night's floor routine. The rotation will weigh heavy on the gymnasts' minds as they head into a week off before the NCAA Regionals on April 7. The field for the NCAA Championships will be announced today at 4 p.m. and will be streamed on NCAA.com.

"We just have one more event to put together, and then it's going to be gold," Rowland said.

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MEN'S TENNIS

Florida wins fourth consecutive match in victory over Razorbacks

By Dylan Rudolph

Sports Writer

Duarte Vale and McClain Kessler opened doubles play with something they were missing in their loss to Ole Miss on Friday: intensity.

From the first serve to the last, their ferocity pushed the duo to a dominant doubles win.

The No. 9 Florida men's tennis team (12-6, 7-1 SEC) followed the energy of Vale and Kessler as it cruised to a 6-1 victory over the Arkansas Razorbacks (9-11, 2-6 SEC) at the Ring Tennis Complex on Sunday. The win was UF's fourth in a row.

The No. 32-ranked team of Vale and Kessler set the pace on Court 2 with strong serves and aggressive plays at the net, defeating Jose Salazar and Alex Reco 6-3.

"I think those two really complemented themselves nicely today," coach Bryan Shelton said. "It's amazing, two days and a world of difference."

On Court 1, however, issues overcame the Gators.

The No. 1-ranked duo of junior Alfredo Perez and sophomore Johannes Ingildsen fell to Arkansas' Oscar Mesquida and Adam Sanjurjo to snap its seven-match win streak in doubles. The 6-3 loss was the first loss for the pair since Jan. 22.

The upset did not hinder Florida, however, as the No. 8 pair of freshman Oliver Crawford and senior Chase Perez-Blanco clinched the doubles point for the Gators for the sixth time this season. Down 5-3, the duo fought back to win 7-5.

"When we were down, we just kept telling each other that we would get a chance to come back," Perez-Blanco said. "We waited until the last minute, but luckily we were able to convert."

UF came out strong in singles play, winning the first set on five of the six courts.

Crawford and Perez-Blanco continued to stand out in singles on Sunday following victories for both players on Friday.

On Court 3, Crawford dominated Mesquida in a 6-1, 6-0 win. The freshman has now won 10 consecutive matches and is undefeated in SEC singles

and doubles.

Perez-Blanco looked strong as well on Court 4. His 6-3, 6-2 victory over Reco was the Miami native's sixth consecutive singles victory.

Freshman Andy Andrade clinched the match for Florida on Court 5 with a heavy backhand past the Razorbacks' Pedro Alonso. Andrade was one of four UF players to win in straight sets Sunday with a 6-3, 6-2 victory.

After the match's clincher, the two teams continued to play.

Kessler proved again why he belongs on the court with another solid performance.

His 7-5, 6-4 win included a back-and-forth second set that ended with a powerful overhead shot to decide it. Since being placed back into the singles lineup on Friday, Kessler has won two singles matches in a row to move to 21-8 all-time when playing on Court 6.

On Court 2, No. 11 Ingildsen avoided an upset. After dropping the second set, the sophomore handled Sanjurjo to win 10-6 in a 10-point tiebreaker.

No. 8 Perez's frustrating day, however, continued into singles on Court 1. The junior held leads in both sets but squandered them in a 6-4, 6-4 loss to Arkansas' Jose Salazar.

Shelton attributed Perez's disappointing match to fatigue. The match was also filled with strong wind that, at one point, knocked off an umpire's umbrella and nearly caused it to roll into play.

Salazar won his fifth consecutive singles match with his victory over Perez.

One player who was absent from singles competition on Sunday was Vale. After he lost his last three matches, he was taken out of the singles lineup for the first time since March 11.

The Gators will have some time off before they travel to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to take on the No. 1 team in the nation, Wake Forest, on Friday. First serves are set for 3 p.m.

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SOFTBALL

Gators shut out TAMU, clinch weekend series

By Mark Stine

Sports Writer

In the home half of the third inning on Sunday night, UF third baseman Nicole DeWitt stood on second base with an ear-to-ear grin.

Moments earlier with the bases loaded, the senior nearly hit her eighth home run of the season. The ball landed on top of the wall, but somehow ricocheted back into play and plopped softly onto the warning track.



DeWitt

DeWitt couldn't help but giggle.

Her three-RBI double put the game out of reach from rival Texas A&M and bolstered UF's lead to nine runs.

DeWitt paced Florida's offense with a game-high five RBIs, while the team's defense — led by pitcher Aleshia Ocasio — blanked the Aggies in a 10-0 victory at Katie Seashole Pressly Stadium.

The shutout clinched a series victory for the Gators (26-3, 6-2 SEC) over Texas A&M (29-6, 3-2 SEC) on Sunday with one game left to be played.

And for the second night in a row, the Gators jumped out to a first-inning lead.

A leadoff walk by left fielder Amanda Lorenz brought DeWitt to the plate.

After laying off a first-pitch ball, she powered her team-leading seventh home run to dead center field and put two quick runs on the board.

Later in the inning, second baseman Hannah Adams approached the plate

with two outs and two runners on base. The freshman drove a hard line drive to right-center field that barely carried over the wall for her first collegiate home run, extending the Gators' early lead to 5-0.

DeWitt and Adams combined for eight RBIs on the night and helped the Gators improve to 20-1 on the season when scoring in the first inning.

Ocasio (11-2), who totaled six strikeouts, one hit and no walks in five innings of work, began the night by striking out two of her first three batters. Her only trouble came when Texas A&M's Samantha Show tripled to right-center field with one out in the third.

However, the senior struck out the next two batters, retiring the last eight she faced to close out the game.

Sunday not only marked a victory for UF's softball team, it also marked the anniversary of a day held heavy in the hearts of all its players. It was the four-year anniversary of the death of Heather Braswell, a teenager whom the Gators once sponsored during her fight with pediatric brain cancer.

The players shared a moment of prayer with Heather's mother, Terri, before the first pitch and wore Heather's favorite flower, the sunflower, in their hair to honor her memory.

"My class and the classes below us, none of us have ever met Heather," DeWitt said. "But we know how much a part she plays for this program and it's just something that we'll keep going for the program for the rest of the time that it's here."

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Maldonado: "We're relaxed. Byrne is going to do what Byrne does."

BASEBALL, from pg. 14

Starter Tyler Dyson's performance, meanwhile, was arguably his worst of the season. He pitched fewer innings (four) than any previous start, and his three earned runs allowed were a season high.

His afternoon could have been worse, though, as he exited the fifth inning with runners on second and third and no outs. The jam was inherited by freshman lefty Jordan Butler.

Butler allowed a sacrifice fly that tied the game at three, but he struck out the next two hitters to keep the game tied before passing it off to Byrne.

Byrne's presence prompted peace for his teammates, who have learned to trust him in tight situations.

"We're relaxed," outfielder Nelson Maldonado said about when Byrne enters the game. "Byrne is gonna do what Byrne does."

Maldonado gave him a big boost by providing the game's decisive offense. He launched a booming home run into the netting behind the left field bleachers to give the Gators a 5-3 lead in the bottom the seventh.

Maldonado then pointed his finger toward the dugout before he rounded second base and flexed his muscles before he tapped home plate.

"That felt awesome," he said. "I knew it was out the second it came off the bat."

Catcher JJ Schwarz also spat a two-run homer into left field earlier in the game, while Blake Reese plated Florida's only remaining run with a sacrifice fly.

"They're a good ballclub," Byrne said. "Winning two out of three against them is a pretty good weekend."

O'Sullivan echoed that sentiment, noting that with a midweek game against No. 7 Florida State on Tuesday and a weekend series against No. 8 Vanderbilt looming, he was encouraged by his team's performance in its biggest test so far this season — especially with how it came back to win the series after losing on Friday.

"It just had that super-regional feel to it, and we probably needed to be tested that way, to be honest," O'Sullivan said. "[I'm] obviously very pleased."

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Alligator File Photo

Florida closer Michael Byrne gave up his first run of the season on Sunday but held on to lead UF to a 5-4 win over Arkansas.

THIS WEEK IN UF SPORTS

Monday, March 26

Softball vs. Texas A&M, 7 p.m., SEC Network

Tuesday, March 27

*Baseball vs. Florida State, 6 p.m., SEC Network

Wednesday, March 28

Men's/Women's Track & Field @ Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays, All Day
Softball vs. FIU, 4 p.m., SEC Network +
Softball vs. FIU, 6 p.m., SEC Network +

Thursday, March 29

Men's/Women's Track & Field hosts Pepsi Florida Relays, All Day
Men's/Women's Track & Field @ Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays, All Day
Women's Tennis vs. Arkansas, 5 p.m.

Friday, March 30

Men's/Women's Track & Field hosts Pepsi Florida Relays, All Day
Men's Tennis @ Wake Forest, 3 p.m.
Softball vs. Hampton, 4 p.m., SEC Network +
Baseball vs. Vanderbilt, 6:30 p.m., SEC Network +
Softball vs. Jacksonville, 6:30 p.m., SEC Network +

Saturday, March 31

Men's/Women's Track & Field hosts Pepsi Florida Relays, All Day
Women's Tennis vs. Missouri, 11 a.m.
Baseball vs. Vanderbilt, Noon, ESPNU
Lacrosse vs. Connecticut, Noon, Big East Digital Network
Softball vs. Hampton, 1 p.m., SEC Network +
Softball vs. Jacksonville, 3:30 p.m., SEC Network +

Sunday, April 1

Baseball vs. Vanderbilt, Noon, SEC Network
Men's Tennis @ South Carolina, 1 p.m.
*Women's Tennis vs. Texas, 5 p.m.

*Denotes neutral-site event



COLUMN, from pg. 14

value engagement over almost everything, and nuanced, thorough stories don't generally lead to attention-grabbing headlines. That's certainly not true all the time, but even when longform reads do go viral, the amount of resources it takes to produce them is hard to justify against spending the same resources on five easier, audience-friendly stories that put up the same numbers.

As a sports writer, this can be infuriating. For example, I spent over a month interviewing sources for a double profile on UF's men's basketball managers turned walk-ons, and the 10,500 words I ended up writing took about 12 hours combined. Thankfully, the story did fairly well.

But that weekend, I was running late to the Alligator staff meeting when one of my co-workers texted me saying I had made the list of top-three most read stories of the week.

"Great," I thought. That rarely happens for sports writers, and it felt triumphant to know a story I worked so hard on was being read that much. Or so I thought.

My optimism was swiftly shattered when I arrived and learned the story with those views was a football piece that, if I'm being honest, I wrote in about 20 minutes because we needed something about football in the paper.

It wasn't interesting, it wasn't enlightening and it was

hardly informative. But it had a catchy headline, so click, click, click.

I want to be clear that I, too, often engage with inflammatory nonsense on social media, but I've been consciously trying to eliminate that tendency. Meeting Smith encouraged that mission further, and I encourage you to join in as well.

After that basketball story debuted, one of the sources in it texted me saying he was surprised how thorough it was. He's not the first person to express that sentiment to me, and others have been more overt with their frustration over the epidemic of shallowness of sports reporting.

As I've written before, I agree.

So if you're one of those people who does care about depth and does care about wanting to learn something beyond which player recorded the most tackles in Saturday's game, seek out that content.

Because certainly there are times when a "three things you may have missed" story can be fun and informative and provide the catharsis that only sports can, but sometimes, the most cathartic sports experience can be locking yourself in the bathroom while Gary Smith transports you beyond the court and into the mind of Jim Valvano as he battles cancer, providing insight that no competition by itself can.

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