City takes steps in plan to help homeless

By DOMINICK TAO

In the Gainesville woods, a homeless widow named Kathryn Brown lives with her two dogs, Ozetta and Cinder.

To keep warm at night, Brown makes campfires outside her tent and sleeps with the two mutts.

As the sun was setting Monday, she sat on a wooden park bench in Gainesville’s Downtown Plaza — the center of the city’s struggle to help its homeless and still keep non-homeless residents and business owners happy.

Across the street from the plaza, at City Hall, commissioners decided Monday to move forward with the latest steps in their plan to end homelessness in Gainesville.

Their decision — to create a uniformed security force to monitor homeless people downtown and to research merging most social services into a one-stop center — was accepted by many homeless advocates as a positive development.

But the commissioners’ unanimous vote did not come quickly. Citizens and commissioners debated for more than two hours.

Jeff Meldon, a local attorney, said he approved of the one-stop homeless service center, but was distressed the city might place that center downtown — where he lives.

“I walk outside and I am barraged by panhandlers,” Meldon said to the commissioners.

The plants are being killed because there is defecation and urine all over,” Meldon and at least five other residents who spoke at the meeting said they want the service center located away from downtown because the homeless people are driving customers away from local businesses.

However, many nonprofit charity groups serve meals to the city’s homeless people downtown because it’s where many homeless residents congregate.

SEE HOMELESS, PAGE 9

Interim dean appointed

By STEPHANIE GARRY

The embattled College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will have a familiar face at its helm in January.

Provost Janie Fouke announced Monday that Joe Glover, UF’s former interim provost, will serve as CLAS’ temporary dean while officials find a replacement for Dean Neil Sullivan. He announced his resignation, will serve as helm in January.

For whatever reason, the deficit did not reduce.”

Joe Glover

CLAS’ interim dean

For whatever reason, the deficit did not reduce, and here we are today,” he said.

Glover said he feels no responsibility for the college’s problems, because managing finances is the dean’s job.

Sullivan’s office said he is no longer taking steps in effect unless he and faculty members

Mylene, who oversaw the program’s creation, said 5G is not going to help subsidize the program. Instead, each participating company will discount classes on its own.

Moseley said he considers the initiative his “pet project,” but Student Body President John Boyles said the plan for discounted rates was an initiative from his Swamp Party’s Spring platform.

“As a group of people, we should be able to coordinate together and get those kinds of benefits for the student body,” Boyles said.

Still, he said, Moseley was “the one that really went out and got it done.”

Moseley said he spent a month

SEE GLOVER, PAGE 8

Coupons fund test prep

By JOEY CHINDAMO

Students planning to take exam review courses for graduate school, law school or business school may have more money in their pockets thanks to a Student Government initiative that began Wednesday.

Three professional exam review companies in Gainesville — TutoringZone, Kaplan and The Princeton Review — will offer discounts on their exam review classes until June 1, thanks to new discount coupons from 5G.

Student Body Treasurer Ryan Moseley, who oversaw the program’s creation, said 5G is not going to help subsidize the program. Instead, each participating company will discount classes on its own.

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SEE COUPONS, PAGE 8

Pedestrian struck, seriously injured by vehicle

An unidentified Hispanic male was listed in critical condition at Shands on Monday night after being hit by a vehicle on Southwest 20th Avenue near Southwest 34th Street. Lt. Mike Burroughs, spokesman for the Florida Highway Patrol, said the man suffered severe head injuries and was taken to the Intensive Care Unit.

“It doesn’t look good,” Burroughs said.

Investigators shut down a portion of Southwest 20th Avenue for about an hour and a half. The driver, Marc Stanley, 21, was not intoxicated, Burroughs said.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Penny Wars
Turlington Plaza, 9 a.m.
The Asian Student Union holds a penny donation drive to raise money for building an Asian-American institute. The drive will continue until Thanksgiving.

Sustainability Fair
Reitz Union North Lawn, 10 a.m.
Gators for a Sustainable Campus hosts its first-ever fair, highlighting student organizations and local businesses with sustainable operations.

Zoology Seminar
Bartram Hall, Room 211, 3:15 p.m.
Marcy Uyenoyama, of Duke University, will speak about “Barriers to Introggression Within Structured Populations.” Refreshments will be served before the seminar.

International Movie Series
Reitz Union Auditorium, 6 p.m.
The Mayors’ Council hosts a series of international movies to expose students to different cultures.

Founder’s Day Gala
Reitz Union Rion Ballroom, 6:30 p.m.
Richard Allen, co-founder of Sustainable Cambodia, will outline how his nonprofit organization helps Cambodian villagers create a sustainable way of life. Keynote speaker Scott Sutton will discuss the ongoing crisis in Darfur, Sudan. Dress is formal.

“Robot Stories”
Reitz Union Auditorium, 8 p.m.
Winner of more than 30 awards, the science-fiction film combines four stories in which humans struggle in which robots control their way of life. Keynote speaker Joe Hunter will discuss the ongoing crisis in Darfur, Sudan. Dress is formal.

CRIME
Body found near church
Police suspect foul play in the death of a Gainesville woman discovered Sunday evening.
The body of Grace Cason, 44, was found lying facedown next to St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at 1008 NE 18th Terrace, said Sgt. Keith Kameg, spokesman for the Gainesville Police Department.
Police discovered her body after they responded to a medical-emergency around 5:30 p.m., Kameg said.
When medical examiners turned the body over, they discovered “apparent signs of foul play,” Kameg said.
Police are not releasing any more information at this time regarding Cason’s manner of death or evident signs of foul play.
They are asking anyone with information to contact Detective Mike Schentrup at (352) 334-2677.

— JAMES RIGNYEY

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Snuffed by smoke

Drug charges can block aid

By BRITTANY DAVIS
Alligator Writer
bdavis@alligator.org

UF students are joining a national campaign to fight a drug law that threatens financial aid, but practices at the University of Florida differ from those in other states. The law was passed in 1998 and affects students who are convicted of drug offenses.

UF provost Ted Jones is working on a local chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy. A handful of students are committed to working with him, but the organization has not been made official.

He plans to lobby legislators for change and educate his fellow students.

"In my mind it's double jeopardy, because you have to answer to the legal system and the educational system," Jones said.

It is nonsensical, he said, to deny financial aid to a person who may already be at risk for drug problems.

"You want to keep these kids in an academic atmosphere," he said, "not destroy their hope of higher education."

The biggest challenge in creating the chapter, Jones said, is finding a faculty sponsor for the organization.

"It's a shame people haven't shown more interest, probably because of some of the stigma surrounding the drug policy," he said.

A study released by Students for Sensible Drug Policy states that since the law's passage, 189,965 students have been denied aid.

But UF financial aid officer Ken Anderson said members of his office are not notified when a drug conviction occurs. They only learn of a drug conviction when the student files his or her annual Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

"It's nice to have a policy with a meaningful consequence. But the last thing we want to do is have people dropping out of school."

Tavis Glassman
coordinator of alcohol and drug prevention

"I can tell you it's a minimal amount of UF students (who lose their aid) because I had to look this rule up," he said.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy, in association with the Drug Reform Coordination Network, distributes scholarships of up to $2,000 to students who have had their financial aid revoked because of drug arrests. No scholarship recipients have attended UF.

Lt. Robert Wagner of the University Police Department said drug arrests are rarely made unless the drugs are found on the person. But courts are clogged with defendants, and those who are arrested can often make deals with the district attorney or plead guilty in exchange for leniency.

According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, less than one-third of those charges result in a guilty plea or a conviction.

About one drug-related arrest occurs on campus per week, most of them for possession of marijuana, according to UPD.

UF psychology alumnus Austin Reed has been convicted on drug charges three times since 2002. He has attended UF and received federal aid since 2004.

In June 2005, undercover police officers arrested Reed in front of a Wal-Mart in Gainesville after setting him up to sell hash. He was more worried that his record would prevent him from being admitted to UF law school than about financial penalties. Reed added that he knows a handful of people who have been convicted on drug charges, and he doesn't know of anyone having their aid revoked.

"Losing financial aid wasn't really a concern for me," he said.

Tavis Glassman, coordinator of alcohol and drug prevention at GatorWell Health Promotion Services, said the policy of revoking financial aid for drug offenses might harm the individual, but it may be the best way to serve society as a whole.

"There is a limited amount of financial aid, he said, and politicians may want to give priority to law-abiding citizens. We should have a policy with a meaningful consequence," he said. "But the last thing we want to do is have people dropping out of school."

Pair caught having sex in stadium

By JAMES RIGNEY
Alligator Writer
jrigney@alligator.org

A man and a woman were interrupted by police while the couple was having sex in a men's restroom in Ben Hill Griffin Stadium during the Florida-South Carolina game.

Detective Jorge Campos of the Gainesville Police Department said multiple people told him a couple was having sex in a stall.

Campos said several men in the restroom, located between Sections 41 and 43, were pointing at the stall.

On Campus Campos wrote in a police report: "I noticed in the first stall two pairs of legs, one male and one female. I also noticed a female's hands above the stall, grabbing the wall for support."

Jamie Lee Jameson, 34, of Port Orange, and Lauren Park Coolidge, 26, of St. Augustine, were both issued a notice to appear in court for a lewd and lascivious act.

Jameson and Coolidge, who are not UF students, both admitted to having sex in the restroom, and both said "it was a stupid idea," according to Campos.

Lt. Robert Wagner of the University Police Department said he couldn't remember another case of people having sex in the stadium restroom.

"I can tell you it's the first time I've ever heard of it," he said.

Looks like someone took a peek at the Holiday Gift Guides...

Show our readers all the gift ideas you have to offer by advertising in this year's Holiday Gift Guides.

Gift Guide II
Run Date: Dec. 1
Deadline: Nov. 22
**HAPPENSTANCE**

An elementary escape from the mundane

It was after Toni Brooks made two whole-hearted attempts at leaping up on the electrical box that three sets of hands finally reached down, and grabbed her short, 8-year-old arms.

The girls were focused on unwinding after a day spent confined to plastic chairs for state-mandated exams. It was, after all, the middle of a perfect Monday afternoon in the Student Colonnade, students observed a moment of silence for theUF Students holding a vigil to protest the recent events in the Middle East.

Students lit candles and huddled in a circle on Turlington Plaza as someone read the names of the dead. They then paraded past the Hub, calling out, “Free, free Palestine!” to passing students. When they arrived at the Reitz Union Colonnade, students observed a moment of silence for the things Brooks had been firing rockets into Israel from Beit Hanoun and then continued firing after a day spent confined to plastic chairs for state-mandated exams. It was, after all, the middle of a perfect Monday afternoon in the Student Colonnade, students observed a moment of silence for theUF Students holding a vigil to protest the recent events in the Middle East.

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Hookah harms like cigarettes

By SARA WATSON
Alligator Contributing Writer

As hookah smoking grows more popular among college students, the health risks associated with the social event grow more ominous.

There are misconceptions that hookah is a healthier alternative to other tobacco use, said Maureen Miller, an alcohol and other drug prevention specialist at GatorWell Health Promotion Services.

“A lot of people see hookah smoking as a social thing and don’t think they will be exposed to any negative consequences,” she said. “But in reality, it’s just as potentially dangerous as cigarette smoking.”

Like cigarette smoking, hookah smoking can lead to heart disease and lung cancer. Even occasional smokers are at risk, Miller said.

“Just because it’s flavored doesn’t mean it’s any less harmful,” she said. “I can’t stress enough that you’re breathing in nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide — just to name a few — when you smoke hookah.”

Health professionals agree that hookah smoking is not healthy or safe, but little research has been done on the effects of hookah, despite its growing popularity, she said.

“Just because it’s flavored doesn’t mean it’s any less harmful.”

Maureen Miller
drug prevention specialist

Another aspect of hookah smoking that makes it dangerous is the social angle.

While cigarette smoking is often a solitary act, hookah smoking is often done with others, contributing to its appeal, Miller said. For hookah smoking in particular, students should also be aware of health risks connected to sanitation, she said.

“If people are sharing a hose to inhale hookah smoke, how sanitary is that?” she said. “If you’re sharing something with multiple people, is that really the best thing for you?”

Because people share the tobacco, a hookah session is typically comparable to or cheaper than a pack of cigarettes, Miller said.

“We always ask students if they smoke cigarettes, but we may need to start asking if they smoke hookah,” she said.

Popular hookah smoking spots include Farah’s on the Avenue, a hookah bar on University Avenue; and places on campus, such as outside of Beatty Towers, she said. A hookah night was hosted outside the Reitz Union in March, according to the Reitz Union events calendar.

There is no way to prevent hookah smoking on campus as long as students aren’t more than 50 feet from a building, said William Properzio, director of Environmental Health & Safety at UF.

In regard to university laws, hookah smoking is treated no differently than other tobacco use, he said.

The Board of Directors of Campus Communications, Inc., publisher of The Alligator and alligator.org, announces the openings for the positions:

Editor,
a paid position as head of the Editorial Division and as an unpaid member of the Board of Directors.

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The applications for these positions are available at the reception desk at the entrance of the first floor of The Alligator Building at 1105 W. University Ave., each weekday between 1-4 p.m. from now until November 14. Please do not call. Further written information is available at the time an application is picked up. Please allow up to 15 minutes at that time to read information you will need for the application process. The application must be returned to the same desk by 3 p.m., November 15. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE DEADLINE.

Interviews and selections by the Board of Directors will be held at The Alligator offices in a meeting open to the public beginning at 3:00 p.m., Friday, December 1. Applicants must be present at that meeting to be considered. Applicants must be degree-seeking college or university students. Preference will be given to those who have experience at The Alligator.

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The independent Florida alligator
and
@alligator.org

Manatee found mutilated in Miami

By DREW HARWELL
Alligator Writer
dharwel@alligator.org

Police and Homestead residents are searching for clues on the mutilation of a manatee found Thursday in Biscayne Bay.

Patrick Rose, executive director of the Save the Manatee Club, described the manatee as an 8-foot adolescent male that weighed about 600 pounds. Its throat had been slit and its flippers and part of its tail had been cut off. The body segments were not found at the scene, Rose said.

He said the scene of the manatee’s death was gruesome.

“I was actually very, very mad,” he said. “Other people on our staff were just horrified.”

The manatee may have died of natural causes before the mutilation took place, biologists told Rose.

Manatees are listed as endangered — only about 3,000 live in water near Florida. If convicted of killing the animal, the perpetrator will face up to a year in prison and a $100,000 fine.

“I still remain very concerned about anybody who could be capable of doing something like this,” Rose said.
The curse lives!
Snafu casts doubt on new voting machines

When the 110th Congress is sworn in next January, Rep. Katherine Harris will be out of a job. She lost last week’s Senate race by a humiliating margin — more than 22 points — and alienated all but the hardest of the hardcore Christian right with her three-ring circus of a campaign.

But thanks to some finicky voting machines in Sarasota County, Wacky Kathy may have the last laugh. This week, Florida’s 13th Congressional District — Harris’ district — began the state’s first election recount since the 2000 presidential race.

According to the voting machines, about 13 percent of Sarasota voters made no choice between Vern Buchanan and Christine Jennings, the candidates vying for Harris’ seat in the state’s first election recount since the 2000 presidential race.

But not so fast — Jennings says most of the 18,000 nonvoters in Sarasota meant to choose her. She could be right. On Election Day, Buchanan won 53 percent of the county’s votes.

Now election officials have launched a full recount. Sort of. Under Florida law, touch-screen voting machines aren’t allowed to produce a paper trail documenting voters’ intentions — meaning this week’s recount will do little more than reproduce last week’s election results.

Whoever takes Harris’ place in next year’s Congressional session, one thing is clear: electronic voting is only as reliable as the voting machines themselves.

Without some way to verify voters’ choices, the whole process loses legitimacy — and Florida defends its title as the most dysfunctional democracy north of Haiti. Katherine Harris may be gone, but some things never change.

Withdrawal symptoms

Will that didn’t take long. Over the weekend, Democrats in Congress began their push for troop withdrawals in Iraq — and thank God for that. For the first time in years, someone in Washington is making sense.

Sen. Carl Levin, the new chairman of the Senate’s Committee on Armed Services, said U.S. soldiers should begin leaving Iraq in “four to six months.” A little vague, maybe, but that’s a far cry from “stay the course” and “mission accomplished.”

With the American death toll threatening to break 5,000, we’ll take what we can get.

Of course, the White House isn’t having it. The president’s chief of staff told reporters, “We’re willing to talk about anything” — anything, that is, but a timetable for leaving Iraq. Apparently, “that could be a true disaster for the Iraqi people.”

As if this occupation has been anything but a disaster for the Iraqi people. As if the war has been anything but a loss for many Americans.

Last week’s election was a clear signal that voters are fed up with the administration’s war policy and willing to do something about it. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s resignation last week was a good start, but the White House has a long way to go before we’ll be convinced George W. Bush got the message.

Setting a timetable for ending the war is the next logical step.

Finally, you can do something for CLAS

Luckily, the recently resigned dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Neil Sullivan, will be able to return to a department — physics — that will actually benefit from his controversial five-year plan.

My pressured friends majoring in chemistry and the biological sciences are lucky too. Even in the face of the $4 million deficit, students in some of these majors will gain new options — the biological sciences program, for example, will be consolidated and expanded.

But what about the 2,000 students whose majors are in the departments hit the hardest? Not to mention the tens of thousands of other students who take classes in these departments — I’m pretty sure just about all of us have to take English, math and a foreign language to fulfill those pesky general education requirements.

In a summary of the plan, I was surprised to see the following sentence: “These changes should not have a significant effect on students.”

Oh, OK. Right. It won’t affect me too much because I only have a year and a half left here — unless a course I need for graduation isn’t offered in my five-year term.

The freshmen will just have to adjust to having larger classes — oh, wait. They already know all about that. And it won’t affect future generations of students because, hey, they won’t know any better.

But what I’m worried about is this affecting our future — you know, once we’re out in the real world, looking for a job or even just applying to graduate school. Will our degrees have less prestige and value attached to them?

I can just hear the graduate admission officers now. “A liberal arts and sciences degree from UF?” one scoffs. “That carries about as much weight as a marriage certificate from Las Vegas!”

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Alligator.
Machen’s Academic Enhancement plan deserves a chance

Kudos to UF President Bernie Machen — last week, he proposed a $1,000 charge for incoming freshmen and transfer students in order to fund 200 new faculty members and 100 academic advisers.

UF is the top university in Florida, and with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in demand and class sizes on the rise, Machen’s plan makes sense. UF already ranks last in tuition among peer universities, and $3,000 added to incoming students’ tuition would allow growth while maintaining UF’s value.

The average college graduate now earns 62 percent more income than a high school graduate — an increase from 19 percent in the 1970s. That’s about $13,900 more per year. It’s only natural that the price of college should rise, at least minimally, as its value rises.

Machen’s plan would operate like a grandfather clause — those of us already enrolled would pay the same amount we paid when we came to UF, while newcomers would pay the inflated rate.

That makes sense because the revenue generated from the $1,000 “program” would benefit incoming students most — whereas an across-the-board tuition hike would have seniors paying for new faculty and advisors.

The plan would also avoid clashing with the ever-increasing demand on Bright Futures, keeping smart students in Florida.

But what about low-income families? Luckily, Machen thought of that. Students with need-based scholarships wouldn’t be charged the extra $1,000 under the plan.

Letters to the Editor

Liles’ column right on climate change

Gerald Liles’ Monday column, “Climate change debate full of hot air,” was excellent. In fact, I thought I was reading my own words. 

I appreciate Liles’ research in finding out who worked for cigarette manufacturers, denouncing 45 profane expressions, most of which were pronounced A scripted F-bomb.

I was personally saddened by Gerald Liles’ Monday column on climate change. Like many other climate change detractors, Liles cited a 1975 Newsweek article on global cooling. While it’s true that world temperatures fell in the years between 1940 and the late 1970s, we now know why. Milankovitch cycles, the effects on the climate of very gradual changes in the Earth’s orbit around the sun, explain this cooling.

There are a handful of crank scientists, funded by energy and automotive interests, who deny that climate change is happening. These were honest and honest researchers are following the scientific tradition of the “scientists” who worked for cigarette manufacturers, denying that cigarettes were addictive or caused cancer.

I don’t mean to suggest that there isn’t a valid debate over climate change, because there is. But the debate is not about whether climate change is occurring — it’s focused on the particular effects of climate change. How much will world temperatures increase? How high will the sea level rise? Will storm cycles intensify?

I’d encourage anyone curious about these issues to check out www.realclimate.org, a blog written for the layman by climate scientists. Unlike Liles’ column, it might shed some light on the global warming debate.

Justin Bangs
UF alumnus

Cursing too prevalent among students

On Friday night, I wanted to relax before I embarked on an exhausting weekend of writing multiple papers, so I treated myself to the free show at the Phillips Center’s Black Box Theatre. The Florida Players performed “Proof” on a quaint stage in a small room, and the mood helped me forget about my impending assignments.

Then, the Players blew me away with a scripted F-bomb. My brain bumbled with distress. I let it slide, hoping it was the first and last use of profanity in the public performance. It wasn’t. In their two-hour performance, the Players pronounced 45 profane expressions, most of them being F-words.

Is there value in eschewing verbal non-fluencies such as “like” or “um” if you just replace them with coarse profanity?

I challenge my fellow students to speak with meticulous precision the next time they encounter a setback. I challenge them to choose their words wisely, to think about their image and future. After all, the lips you use to shout verbal trash at your image and future. After all, the lips you use to shout verbal trash at your team’s reputations with such obvious and unnecessary profanity.

Jonathan Kuhn
2LS

Peter Woit. Not Even Wrong.
The Failure of String Theory and the Search for Unity in Physical Law. Woit argues that string theory is a bit of a dead end for theoretical physics. $26.00.

Chris Mooney. The Republican War on Science.
Scientists feel that they are being excluded from political influence, even in scientific matters. $14.95. Paper.

Edward Larson. Summer for the Gods.
The Scopes Trial and America’s Continuing Debate over Science and Religion. A reissue. $15.95. Paper.

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New Student Affairs official reunites with alma mater

By ELIZABETH HILLAKER
Alligator Writer
ehillaker@alligator.org

Ainsley Carry grew up in a small, beige and brown house in Miami. His single mother had bought the ranch-style house for her four boys from a Gator alum — who forgot to change his address with the university. So four times a year, he got a glimpse of the Gator Nation.

On Monday, Carry started working as the assistant vice president of Student Affairs, the division that oversees UF student life, including recreational sports, housing and discipline.

"As a little kid, I was caught in the orange and blue," he said. "When it came time for him — the first in his family — to make a decision about colleges, UF was the only option."

When Carry arrived as an undergraduate in 1988, he walked onto the football team. He still wears his blue and gold SEC Championship ring from 1990. But the broad-shouldered 37-year-old said his studies took priority over sports. He earned his bachelor’s degree in food and resource economics and afterward took a job at Wal-Mart as an assistant store manager.

"I worked the 'be' shift," he said. "You'll be there when it opens and you'll be there when it closes."

After a year, he knew he wanted to go back to college to pursue his love for college life. So he returned to Gainesville, earning his master’s degree in counseling and his doctorate in higher administration.

Once he graduated, he took a job at Southern Methodist University in Texas for four years and then was recruited to the University of Arkansas. There, he met his wife, Jessica, on a blind date.

"From that point on, we talked to each other every day," he said. Four months later he proposed.

"It was clear to me that she was the woman I wanted to spend the rest of my life with," he said with a quick, shy smile.

"It was clear to me that she was the woman I wanted to spend the rest of my life with." — Ainsley Carry assistant vice president of Student Affairs

Meanwhile, he was recruited to work for Temple University in Philadelphia, where he created a family of students and staff. Leaving to come to UF was a hard decision, he said.

Carry said he had prayed to be able to return to UF, but it was really his wife, his mother in Miami and his mother-in-law in Georgia who made the decision clear.

As assistant vice president, Carry will help decide if UF’s student programs are successful and work with students who appeal discipline decisions. Eventually, he said he would like to teach some classes in higher education.

"My favorite part is getting to know students," he said.

Associate provost to take post

GLOVER, from page 1

folks said she thought Glover would be a good candidate for dean because of his experience in the college.

"It's not clear to me how aware faculty are," she said.

Glover’s biggest challenge will be incorporating faculty input in a revised plan while addressing the urgency of the college’s deficit, which is ranking up at a rate of $100,000 a week, Fouke said.

"I think there are faculty who haven't found a way to exercise their voice in the plans for the college, and it'll be a challenge for him to help them achieve that goal," she said.

Glover estimated he’ll head to CLAS for about a year and he and Fouke believe that cleaning up the college will be important in recruiting a good permanent dean.

"This is a very strong college — it should be a plum position," Fouke said. "If there’s anything that detracts from this reputation of excellence, I want to make sure we deal with that so that we are appealing to the very best candidates."

Glover expects to start talking with Sullivan right away about the college, he said. Glover will replace Sullivan on Jan. 1.

Tutoring discounts equal up to $100

In order to pick up the coupons, students should bring their Gator 1 Cards to the information desk in the Reitz Union, Moseley said. Only one coupon per student will be given out.

The review companies will accept the coupons until July 1, and they may ask to see students’ Gator 1 Cards as well.

Moseley said he’s excited about the program because it allows his office to reach out and help students, instead of just being known as the office to “audit and allocate students’ money.”

“One thing we’re looking to do now is to branch out and also to find some services that can save students money,” Moseley said. "Students want certain things — they want things that are tangible. They want SG to work on issues that affect their pocketbook and affect their daily lives, and we think that saving 100 bucks, saving 50 bucks is one way they can do that."
Rock-A-Thon revenue to fund children’s cancer research

By ASHLEY MIHLEBACH
Alligator Contributing Writer

Pre-health honor society Alpha Epsilon Delta is hoping for a full house during its third Gainesville Rock-A-Thon, which will raise money for pediatric cancer research at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

The Rock-A-Thon will take place Wednesday at The SideBar, 15 SW Second St. Tickets are on sale for $5 at the Reitz Union Box Office and will be sold at the door.

Local bands Boyce Ave, The Patrick Mcduffy Allstars, Initial Here, The Umoja Orchestra and The Untimely Death of… will perform from 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

“There are many benefits and fundraisers for various charitable events,” said Jeff Mangariotto, the bass guitarist for The Untimely Death of… “But children with cancer hits home with everyone.”

According to the National Cancer Institute, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. In 2006, about 9,500 new cases of pediatric cancer were expected to occur. Helene Johns, whose daughter Susan was diagnosed with leukemia at age 7, said the scary thing about cancer is that it can affect anyone, and the outcome is uncertain.

“As a parent, you never want to see your child in pain even if it’s something as trivial as a toothache, let alone cancer,” she said.

Money collected from raffling band merchandise and ticket sales will help fund cancer research, patients’ treatment payments and art projects for the children at St. Jude.

The society decided to continue its support to St. Jude Children’s Hospital because all patients accepted for treatment were treated without regard to the family’s ability to pay.

Rock-A-Thon organizers hope to raise $1,000 every semester, but the society anticipates raising more than that this year, Davis said.

Davis estimated up to 100 people attended the last Rock-A-Thon and hoped to see the venue fill its 300-person capacity this time around.

Discussion of homeless center’s location postponed amid dissent

Some advocates argue that if the center is located away from downtown, the homeless will have to leave.

For some, that’s good news, and for others it’s not.

Betty Lloyd, a member of Fire of God Ministries, was out on the plaza Monday evening to serve meals to the dozens of homeless people gathered there. She said it was wrong for the city to put business interests over people.

“They ain’t no different than you or me,” Lloyd said. “But if you ain’t got a dime, you’re not worth anything in this world.”

Brown, with her dogs at her feet, said relocating social services would hurt the homeless more than most people are aware.

“They ain’t no different than you or me. But if you ain’t got a dime, you’re not worth anything in this world.”

Betty Lloyd, member of Fire of God Ministries of homeless services, said he was happy the commissioners did not discuss site locations. He said the plan might not have moved forward if they had.

The director of a Washington, D.C.-based homeless rights group wary of the commissioners’ motives was also at the meeting to tell them so.

“It is clear your city is not sheltering all its people by day or night,” said Michael Stoops, the director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, at Monday’s meeting.

In 2004, the coalition named Gainesville the fifth-meanest city to homeless people in America.

Since then, Gainesville has been dropped from the “meanest cities” list.

“We will be coming out with a new meanest cities list,” Stoops said at the meeting.

“And I hope Gainesville will continue to stay off the list.”

Before his appearance at City Hall, Stoops spoke at UF’s Levin College of Law about unprovoked attacks on homeless people by bored teenagers.

He said Gainesville was an exception for Florida, which is one of the most dangerous places for homeless people, he said.

“Generally, university towns — college students — are pretty nice to their homeless,” Stoops said. “It’s teens roaming the streets looking for fun who are dangerous.”

By ASHLEY MIHLEBACH
Alligator Contributing Writer

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Brown, with her dogs at her feet, said relocating social services would hurt the homeless more than most people are aware.

“There’s people on crutches, there’s people terminally ill, there’s people mentally ill out here,” she said. “These people are in the same routine. Wake up at St. Francis House, take a shower, eat breakfast, check mail... if you change things, they won’t know what to do.

“They’ll die in the woods, they’ll die in the park, they’ll go and die behind a Dumpster.”

Brown’s eyes are the color of faded blue jeans. They glossed over with tears as she talked about the possibility of her friends dying.

Commissioners, conscious of the prickly nature of the location debate, chose to avoid discussion of where the one-stop center would be located. They decided to defer the issue to a later date.

“Every site will have opponents,” said Russ Blackburn, Gainesville’s city manager.

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UF law professor represents Grapski

By CLAUDIA ADRIEN
Alligator Contributing Writer

A UF law professor said Monday that he will represent UF graduate student Charles Grapski in his trial Thursday.

Grapski, who originally planned to act as his own attorney until Levin College of Law professor Joe Little decided to represent him, has been charged with felony wiretapping.

“If I were the judge, I would certainly dismiss the charges, but our goal now is to certainly try the case,” said Little.

Grapski has been accused of wiretapping a meeting with an Alachua county official in April. He taped his conversation with City Manager Clovis Watson regarding public record requests and absentee ballots. Watson said he was not told the conversation was being recorded, according to a police report.

“He was a public official, doing the public’s business, in the public’s office, with me recording it,” he said.

City Manager Watson could not be reached for comment.

Spencer Mann, spokesman for the State Attorney’s Office, said his office tried to settle this case out of court, but Grapski refused several offers.

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Senate Policy Councils work for all of UF

Although the semester just began for many of us, the Senate Policy Councils have been active for months and soon will bring recommendations to the Senate. It is through the Policy Councils that the Senate takes a proactive role in policy changes and guards the academic mission of the University of Florida.

Currently, the Academic Policy Council is considering the adoption of minus grades for UF and looking into policies for recognition of three-year baccalaureate degrees from European universities. Soon, the council will create procedures for updating and revising the University Strategic Work Plan. The Welfare Council is revising the faculty climate survey and considering ways to implement the Sloan Foundation grant application career flexibility report. The council will recommend hiring a dispute resolution officer to help faculty deal with grievances and other work-related issues.

The Budget Council is reviewing college and center program review documents for consistency with various legislative budget requests and allocations, and the University Strategic Plan. The Infrastructure Council is investigating deferred maintenance on university buildings and is working with the Future of the Libraries Committee. The Council on Research and Scholarship is reviewing evaluation processes for university centers and institutes, and policies concerning indirect cost determinations.

The chairs of the University Senate and Joint Committees sit on a relevant Senate Policy Council so there is a synergy between the committees and councils. We hope that if you have recommendations for new policies or questions regarding pending items, you will contact the relevant council, committee or Senate chair for further guidance and input.

It is only with the participation of the entire university community that we define the academic and working environment in which we live.

Danaya Wright
Faculty Senate Chair

Top of Page

UF proposal aims to boost undergraduate education

Academic Enhancement Program would pay for additional faculty, advisers

The University of Florida has proposed a new Academic Enhancement Program for undergraduate students that if approved will enable the university to hire 200 new faculty members and 100 new academic advisers, resulting in smaller classes, a higher four-year graduation rate and a more rewarding college experience.

The program would apply to incoming freshmen and transfer students in fall 2007 and would be phased in over four years. The program, which must be approved by the board of governors and the Florida Legislature, would add $500 per semester to the tuition approved by the Florida Legislature for the 2007-08 academic year.

"The University of Florida is the highest ranked university in the state, yet, with one exception, charges the lowest tuition and fees," UF President Bernie Machen said. "Our tuition is also considerably less than every other major public university nationally. This greatly impedes our ongoing efforts to reduce our high student-to-faculty ratio and take other steps necessary to make UF a leading national public university."

The hiring of new faculty members and advisers would lower student-teacher ratios, reduce class sizes and enable the university to add more sections of required and popular classes making it easier for students to complete required courses and potentially improving graduation rates.

"The bottom line is, we will use the program to enrich the educational experience of the students who are paying for it," Machen said. "In addition, the region and the state stand to gain considerably from a memorable undergraduate experience, not just for UF students on financial aid, aid packages will be adjusted to cover the cost of the program. UF scholarships that pay for tuition and college costs, such as the Florida Opportunity Scholarship, will also cover the added cost.

"If the benefits of the academic Enhancement Program didn't far outweigh the costs, we would never pursue it," Machen said. "We think the program will provide our students a much richer, much more memorable undergraduate experience, not to mention a more valuable degree."

For full story, visit the Web at http://news.ufl.edu/2006/11/07/academicenhancement/

Tuition and Fees At A Glance

Comparison of tuition and fees at other top public universities

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<th>University</th>
<th>Cost for Florida Residents</th>
<th>Cost for Non-Florida Residents</th>
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<td>Penn State</td>
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Source: USA Today Sept. 5, 2006
In Focus

Hard-To-Master-Language requires critical thinking

There’s no Hemingway, Transcendentalists, Melville or Lawrence in English Professor Gregory Ulmer’s course, but there is HTML.

Ulmer’s entry-level class, Hypermedia, a course on basic Web design, is one of the more challenging in the English department. Not only are many of the concepts foreign to a majority of students, but his teaching methods are different from the average English instructor.

As with the other UF faculty members recently inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars, it is Ulmer’s insistence on getting students to really use their minds—to think critically—that helped him gain acclaim as an educator.

“Problems in real life are not so neatly broken down,” he said. “They are all entangled. We want to get students and teachers thinking in a holistic way in regard to learning.”

Research complex opens with visit from governor

The Cancer and Genetics Research Complex, the largest research structure on the University of Florida campus, will celebrate its grand opening Wednesday that will include a visit from Gov. Jeb Bush.

The $84.5 million complex is west of the Health Science Center at the intersection of Archer Road and Gale Lemerand Drive, next to the Jerry and Judith Davis Cancer Center, an outpatient facility of the UF Shands Cancer Center.

The location was chosen so that scientists who are exploring cancer at the cellular, molecular and genetics levels will be able to collaborate directly with health professionals caring for patients.

The 280,000-square-foot complex houses major research and educational programs of the UF Genetics Institute, the UF Shands Cancer Center and the UF-based Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research, a statewide resource serving more than 800 scientists.

Exhibit to showcase international programs

As part of International Education Week, the University of Florida School of Architecture will host an exhibit of faculty research and student work relating to international programs and projects. The exhibit will run through Friday in the gallery at the Architecture Building and is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The School of Architecture and the College of Design, Construction and Planning have a strong history of international programs and research, reaching from Brazil to Hong Kong and China and from Germany to Australia. This semester, students are studying abroad with college faculty in Pune, India; Vicenza, Italy; and Paris. The exhibit will provide a visual interpretation of selected projects and programs, including projects from architecture professors Charles Hailey, Shijit Siddhu and Hui Zou.

Machen visiting Asia to promote higher ed

University of Florida President Bernie Machen is in Asia this week, as part of a U.S. delegation of higher education leaders who are meeting with students, university administrators, business leaders and government officials in Japan, Korea and China.

The trip, which coincides with International Education Week, follows from a commitment made at the U.S. University Presidents Summit on International Education in January 2006. The State Department is organizing high-level delegations of college and university presidents, each led by a senior government official, to key regions of the world to promote U.S. higher education and to talk about the importance of international education.

The Asia delegation includes Assistant Secretary of State Dina Habib Powell, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, and the presidents or leaders of 11 other universities, including Johns Hopkins, Ohio State and the University of California, Santa Barbara.

UF enrolls students from more than 100 foreign countries and maintains offices in Paris and Beijing.

Conversation to focus on faculty diversity

The third discussion in the 2006 Faculty Development “Conversations About…” series will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, in Emerson Alumni Hall. The conversation will focus on faculty diversity and recruitment. For additional information, contact faculty development at 392-6004 or visit the Web at www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/facdev/conversations/.

Florida minimum wage to increase in January

Effective Jan. 1, the state of Florida’s minimum wage will increase to $5.67 an hour. At the University of Florida, the new minimum wage will affect OPS employees, student assistants and federal work study students. Departments do not need to take action to raise the pay of current employees who are below this new minimum, but are asked to enter terminations that will take place in December as early as possible. This minimum wage increase does not affect TEAMS or USPS employees.

Gator Dining offers meal memberships

Faculty and staff dining memberships are now available through Gator Dining Services. Membership entails 30 meals plus $25 in Flex Bucks at the Fresh Food Company (Broward Dining Hall) and Gator Corner Dining Center (behind the O’Connell Center). Meal memberships also may be used at the new cafe in the Cancer and Genetics Research Complex. For additional details on the membership, visit the Web at www.gatordining.com/FacultyStaff.

Don’t forget …

To update your addresses (postal and e-mail) in the UF directory to ensure you don’t miss important mailings on any number of topics, including benefits changes. Details on how to keep this information current are available online at www.bridges.ufl.edu/advisory/advisory70.shtml.

Did you know …

UF Physical Plant employees provide service to 403 campus buildings totaling more than 10 million square feet of space?
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Classifieds... Continued on next page.
Championships, so as they looked ahead to the he didn't want to overwork the Gators back practices. He said previously that things really similar."

"We're very pleased at this point," McMahon said. "(Fall practice) is very important, particularly each year, as each club takes on its personality."

One player whose job is not at risk is senior first baseman Matt LaPorta.

LaPorta displayed his worth to the Gators last Wednesday at the Orange and Blue World Series at McKethan Stadium, where he belted the game-tying home run in the bottom of the sixth inning. The game ended in a draw and a series split between the Orange and Blue.

The Gators also return ace pitcher Bryan Augusten, who finished 2006 with a 9-6 record, a 3.07 ERA and 98 strikeouts.

Aside from the returning players, the Gators will welcome a host of talented freshmen, including Cole Figueroa (Tallahassee). Figueroa's performance during fall practice drew nothing but praise from McMahon. "He's really made an impact," McMahon said. "The thing I really like about Cole is his work ethic. He plays the game with great confidence, and he's had an outstanding fall."

Figueroa was part of a freshman signing class that was initially ranked third in the nation by Baseball America and is now sixth after the MLB draft. Some notable signees included right-handed pitcher Billy Bullock (Fort Pierce), who was selected in the 20th round by the Los Angeles Dodgers, and outfielder Jonathan Figott (Ormond Beach), who was selected in the 51st round by the Oakland A's.

The Gators also anticipate they will be joined by Riley Cooper (Clearwater), who is playing wide receiver for the UF football team.

McMahon foresees the incoming class making an immediate impact.

"A lot of incoming players are going to come in and push for starting opportunities right away," he said. "And that's very exciting for us."

UF cross country coach Jeff Pigg wants his teams to approach this week the same way they approached every week of the regular season.

"We're going to do the same thing we've done all year long," Pigg said. "We're going to go to class, take a couple tests and practice a little bit. We'll keep things really similar."

However, Pigg does plan on scaling back practices. He said previously that he didn't want to overwork the Gators as they looked ahead to the NCAA Championships, so UF won't be running as much this week as it was earlier this season. The Gators are coming off a stellar performance at the NCAA South Regional during the weekend. The women took second and won an automatic bid to the NCAAs, while the men took third, earning an at-large bid for the second consecutive year.

Pigg said the men might not have put in a full effort at the meet because they knew as long as they finished better than fifth, they would most likely receive an at-large bid. He felt the mindset for the men's squad was different from previous seasons, when the men didn't know if they would make the cut.

"You're kind of going there and saying, 'Hey, it's OK if we win, but if we don't, that's OK too.'"

Jeff Pigg
UF cross country coach

"You're kind of going there and saying, 'Hey, it's OK if we win, but if we don't, that's OK too,'" he said. "I'm glad we're done with that. We're not good at these 90 percent effort-type deals."

The NCAA Championships will be held in Terre Haute, Ind., where the Gators competed at a meet earlier in the season.

Pigg wants his teams to remember that this week is more than just about getting ready for the biggest race of the season. It's also about having a fun time.

"They are going to remember this opportunity for the rest of their life," he said. "I want them to enjoy it."

Coach Pat McMahon talks to first baseman Matt LaPorta during UF's 7-6 loss to Stetson in 2005. McMahon hopes UF can rebound from a horrid season.
Arkansas’ prolific rush game looms ahead for UF

FOOT, from page 24

"But to stop the run, you have to have a strong inside presence, and right now, we don’t have that."

Siler’s responsibilities now fall on true freshman Brandon Spikes, who was called upon in the fourth quarter against South Carolina. Spikes will have the challenge of leading UF’s defense, which is not a simple task for an inexperienced freshman, Meyer said.

"Middle linebacker is like the quarterback," Meyer said. "He makes the checks and makes sure everybody’s aligned right. That’s our biggest concern."

The Gators aren’t trying to look ahead, but it’s hard not to. A possible matchup with Arkansas in the SEC championship game seems likely.

And with the Razorbacks being the top rushing team in the SEC — averaging 240.9 rushing yards per game — Strong understands his players have two weeks to turn things around.

“We understand that (Arkansas is) a running team,” Strong said. “And we need to stop the run and get things corrected.”
UF MEN’S BASKETBALL

Hectic stretch starts with UNF

By JENNA MARINA
Alligator Staff Writer
jmarina@alligator.org

The No. 1 UF men’s basketball team will compete against North Florida tonight at 7 in the first of three games at the O’Connell Center this week.

The Gators will still have four more games to play in November after this series, including a Thanksgiving weekend matchup against No. 3 Kansas.

While Coach Billy Donovan is concerned with how the stretch will effect UF players are content with their busy schedules.

“I like it,” said freshman Dan Werner, who was sporting a Band-Aid above his right eyebrow after colliding with freshman Brandon Powell’s tooth in practice. “(I’ll) coming out in front of the fans and stuff, and you don’t have to practice as much, too.”

One would assume that with three games this week, the freshmen might see increased playing time and opportunities for the real test.

But Donovan said UF needs to compete as it normally will during the season. He intends to keep much of the same personnel on the court throughout the games.

“If an opportunity presents itself to play different guys, we’ll do that,” Donovan said, “but our main focus is to go out there and play the best we can.

That’s why’s game will be completely different from the opener against Samford, which ran a Princeton-style offense that forced the Gators to defend heavily possessions.

“Hopefully, these types of teams can prepare us for just different things we’re going to see,”

Billy Donovan
UF men’s basketball coach

“This is a basketball team that has great quickness and great athleticism,” Donovan said. “They create a lot of help situations. They create a lot of opportunities for defensive rebounding. They take it to the rim, and they force themselves to get fouled.”

That will require UF to rotate positions on defense and work on some of the basics and fundamentals of the game, which junior Jokim Noah admitted is tough to do when the Gators have the advantage.

“When we feel like we’re dominant,” Noah said, “sometimes we lose focus of those rotations and the step-ups and some of the things (the coaches) want us to do.”

The Ospreys are 0-2 this season and went 6-22 in their first season as a Division I school last year. And although the Gators are expected to win their first several games, Donovan wants his team to walk away with more than just a “W.”

“Hopefully, these types of teams can prepare us for just different things we’re going to see,” Donovan said.

UF coach Billy Donovan and the Gators will play North Florida tonight at 7 in the O’Connell Center.

FSU kickoff announced for noon on ABC

NOTES, from page 24

with the current system. If not UF, that team could be Arkansas. Though the Razorbacks have gone 6-6 in Southeastern Conference play, they are only No. 7 in the BCS.

“I think they’re one of the top teams in the country,” Meyer said. “I watched part of that (Tennessee) game, and they look real talented on offense and real good on defense. (But) I thought they really got behind the eight ball when they lost early by a wide margin at home (to Kansas).

OUT LOUD, from page 24

three games by a touchdown or less.

While you could possibly argue that USC will play a tougher schedule than the Gators this year, they certainly have played a weaker schedule up until this point.

USC’s most impressive win to date? Maybe Nebraska, a team that struggled to win the notoriously bad Big 12 North. Or how about an Oregon team still trying to learn the concept of defense. Then there was the Trojans’ win against an Arkansas team that played without Darren McFadden, a.k.a. the entire Arkansas offense.

To be honest, I don’t think UF is good enough to run the table. The Gators played their best game on offense in a long time (at Tennessee), and they managed to score only 17 points. Without Marcus Thomas, UF also has no pass rush and is even struggling to stop the run.

But if UF or Arkansas does finish with one loss, that team deserves to play for a national title. Not a Crisp-10 team, not a team that thinks it is too good to join a conference (but isn’t even close) and certainly not a Big East team.

The real truth as to why UF and Arkansas face an uphill battle is not margin of victory or strength of schedule — it’s all about money.

Every notice that ESPN analysts don’t exactly have kind words for the Gators?

If Mark May came out next week and simply declared, “The Florida Gators suck,” it would be the single greatest display of disrespect for UF that May has shown the Gators all season.

ESPN doesn’t want to see SEC teams succeed, because most SEC games are broadcast on CBS. The network will continue to try to influence voters as long as voters will listen — and they do.

That’s why the Trojans narrowly squeaked past their next three opponents and the Gators somehow won convincingly in their next three games, the Gators will not jump USC in the BCS.

That’s why an SEC team likely won’t play for a national title.

‘Cocks win could sway recruits

By MIKE MCCALL
Alligator Writer

If you glanced at the south end zone during Saturday’s game, you may have noticed several rows of recruits, all on hand to see the Gators play South Carolina.

These bleachers held wide receivers Terrance Toliver and Ahmad Paige, two of the top-five receivers in the country. Toliver and Paige watched as freshman Percy Harvin finished the game as UF’s leading receiver.

The group included wide receivers Terrance Toliver and Ahmad Paige, two of the top-five receivers in the country.

Toliver and Paige watched as freshman Percy Harvin finished the game as UF’s leading receiver.

Ben Martin — the seventh-ranked defensive end in the region — was there too, and he saw junior defensive end Jarvis Moss block a field goal to seal the win for the Gators.

Quarterback Cameron Newton — who has verbally committed to UF — watched as freshman quarterback Tim Tebow ran for the game-winning 12-yard score.

Newton, a 6-foot-6, 225-pound Atlanta native who boasts both a strong arm and quick feet, chose UF over more than 40 schools he considered.

Miami Lakes’ Armando Allen, who was considered one of the country’s best backs before he broke his leg during a practice, watched DeShawn Wynn rush for 7.5 yards per carry Saturday.

Still, on several occasions, Wynn broke through to the Gators secondary only to be stopped by a safety — the last man between the tailback and a touchdown.

Allen, however, does have the ability to make the last man miss.

Jarvis Moss’ another guy,” Miami Lakes coach Jerry Hughes said. “Some running backs run the same speed all the time, but when he needs to break away, he somehow finds that extra gear.

Allen, who wishes to enroll in January, may be the guy to verbally commit to UF and make a decision soon.

“I would say within two weeks,” Hughes said.

As one of the fastest players in his class (4.31 seconds in the 40-yard dash, according to Rivals.com), Allen has received offers from virtually every top college team and has narrowed his choices to UF and Notre Dame.

His close friend, cornerback Demarcus VanDyke, was also in attendance Saturday. VanDyke has a tentative oral commitment to Miami but will make his final decision between the Hurricanes, Ohio State and UF.

Nease’s James Wilson — a five-star defensive guard — watched from the stands along with the parents of Tebow, his former high school teammate. Wilson has already verbally committed to Southern Cal and is a long shot to sign with the Gators.

The only factor that could sway Wilson’s decision is the temptation to block for Tebow.

“I think it’s very tempting, because they were such good teammates in high school,” Nease coach Craig Howard said. “I’d love to see him be a Gator.”

Next week, four players who have verbally committed to UF — all from Jacksonville High — will make official visits to see the Gators play Western Carolina.

Verbal commitments are non-binding until a letter of intent is signed on National Signing Day, Feb. 7, 2007.
Defense depleted by dismissal, injuries

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
Alligator Staff Writer
agonzalez@alligator.org

The domination has ended. The problems have surfaced. The injuries have arrived. No matter how you look at it, the UF defense is reeling after back-to-back lackluster performances. Vanderbilt and South Carolina — both bottom-dwellers in the Southeastern Conference — gave the Gators fits the last two games. And although UF is facing Division I-AA Western Carolina on Saturday, rival FSU and the SEC title game loom ahead, which is a cause for concern for the Gators.

"The last two weeks, we haven't played great defense," Coach Urban Meyer said Monday. "I think our guys up front are playing too many snaps. That's a product of the issues we've dealt with, but that's the way it is."

By "issues," Meyer is pertaining to the dismissal of defensive tackle Marcus Thomas, who is a projected first-round pick in next year's NFL Draft.

Thomas' departure has created a hole on UF's defensive line that has yet to be replaced.

Derrick Harvey didn't look the same Saturday as a starter. Harvey has recorded eight sacks off the bench this season — second in the SEC — but failed to record a tackle — let alone a sack — against the Gamecocks. "Derrick Harvey didn't play very well Saturday for whatever reason," Meyer said. "There's an issue right now up front with who you see coming down the pipes."

Without Thomas, there has been little pressure on opposing quarterbacks. And no pressure makes it that much harder to force turnovers.

The Gators didn't elicit a turnover against South Carolina and didn't garner a sack. The Gamecocks consequently passed for 275 yards.

Co-defensive coordinator Charlie Strong agrees with Meyer's assessment. Strong said he is searching for solutions to the problems UF encountered Saturday but has yet to find one.

"We just didn't get pressure," Strong said. "I don't know why we didn't.

Adding to the headaches, middle linebacker Brandon Siler has a second-degree tear of the left MCL — a critical knee ligament — and might not play Saturday. Also, linebacker Earl Everett is recovering from a sprained left ankle and is questionable.

Siler's absence certainly affected UF's defense Saturday. The Gators surrendered 137 passing yards.

"We have to get pressure up front, but we have to stop the run as well," Meyer said. "But to stop the run, you have to..."

SEE FOOT, PAGE 22

What's new? BCS a bunch of B.S. for No. 4 Gators

By LOUIS ANASTASIS
Alligator Staff Writer
lanastasis@alligator.org

Ohio State and West Virginia. Michigan and Arkansas. Southern Cal and Rutgers. UF and Notre Dame.

If the season ended today and Coach Urban Meyer had his way, these would be the sexy college football matchups America would be treated to. That's because the more Meyer studies the Bowl Championship Series, the more he would advocate the implementation of an eight-team playoff system.

"I think I'm getting pretty close to going thumbs up with it," Meyer said.

"You start questioning: 'Who are these people and why are they deciding the fates of young 21-year-old players? We're getting closer and closer, but I don't know how feasible it is.'"

Though four BCS top-10 teams fell this past weekend, the Gators remained at No. 4. Meanwhile, USC, which lost to unranked Oregon State just weeks ago, slid into third place.

"I was opposed to (playoffs), because I think the bowl experience is great for a young person. But we're (now) in a situation where you should take the top eight teams and let them play for a national championship," Meyer said.

The coach suggests that every major conference institute a championship game. That way, each conference could send an undisputed representative to the playoffs.

At season's end, some deserving team will likely be irritated..."