UF ADMINISTRATION

Trustees label tuition plan No. 1 priority

By ELIZABETH HILLAKER
Alligator Writer
ehillaker@alligator.org

UF’s No. 1 legislative priority this session is passing the Academic Enhancement Program, a university official said Thursday. The program will phase in a $1,000 yearly student charge over four years to pay for more faculty and advisers.

Members of UF’s Board of Trustees plowed through a laundry list of items including the program, fee increases and the Student Government tuition survey during a series of committee meetings. Officials also discussed the possibility of eliminating UF’s Early Decision admissions program.

The board’s Committee on Educational Policy and Strategy discussed the Academic Enhancement Program. Provost Janie Fouke said administrators have been advised to change the program’s name to the Academic Infrastructure Fee to avoid any possible legal challenge.

“Call it whatever you want to call it,” UF Trustee Manny Fernandez joked, but UF spokesman Steve Orlando said Thursday evening that the name had not been changed.

The board, which is UF’s highest governing body, will vote today to put the charge on its legislative agenda.

Because legislators have been favorable to UF in the past, trustees are optimistic that the program will pass by May.

Fouke told the committee that the Office of Admissions is looking at eliminating UF’s Early Decision option because it has a negative impact on minority enrollment. Minority students who need financial aid cannot commit to UF without knowing how much financial aid they’ll receive, she said.

At this point, only 3.19 percent of the Early Decision applicants are black, compared to 9.33 percent in regular decision, according to paperwork on this year’s incoming freshman.

SEE TRUSTEES, PAGE 9

Asian-American benefit raises funds

By KRISTEN CASTRO
Alligator Contributing Writer

Because of their belief in the need to hire an Asian-American affairs director and establish an Asian-American Institute, the brothers of Pi Delta Psi Fraternity were building dreams Thursday night.

Through its Building Dreams benefit concert, Pi Delta Psi hope to raise enough money to spur the implementation of an institute and director.

For five years, the Asian American Student Union has tried lobbying for its own institute, said Alex Lavigne, a UF senior and a co-director of the concert.

Although there is a graduate assistant to address Asian-American students’ issues, there should also be an overall director, he said.

He understands that a huge amount of money would be required to make his dreams a reality. However, he is hopeful.

“Absolutely,” said Eliza Wike, a member of Pi Delta Psi and director, he said.

“The administration feels there’s not a strong need,” Lavigne said.

He said they want to let everyone on campus, including the administration, know that there is a need for an Asian-American institute.

He said if they start raising money now, they could at least

SEE CONCERT, PAGE 12

Organizations showcase World AIDS Day with film festival

■ THE FILMS AIMED TO TEACH ABOUT AIDS.

By ASHLEY MiHLBEACH
Alligator Contributing Writer

The lights stayed off as the movie credits rolled. Maybe the projectionist wasn’t paying attention, or maybe audience members needed a moment to gather themselves.

Namrata Uheroi lifted the back of her hand to her cheek and wiped away a tear.

“I always cry at sad movies,” the political science senior said.

“Longtime Companion,” a film depicting the first years of the AIDS epidemic and its impact on a group of gay friends, succeeded in raising AIDS awareness by giving the illness a face and story that students could relate to.

The film was one of four in the Annual Silence Student AIDS Film Festival, which took place Monday through Thursday at the Reitz Union Cinema in order to recognize World AIDS Day, which takes place today.

The festival was sponsored by Vox: Voices of Planned Parenthood, the Student Honors Organization, Rezato, the Student Global AIDS Campaign and the Reitz Union Board.

Kristen Lang, a co-president of Vox, said that the documentary and feature films were chosen to illustrate the many faces of AIDS, such as the battle with pharmaceutical companies, its impact within the gay community and the global efforts to fight for a cure.

Uheroi, Vox’s public relations officer, said the students who planned the event wanted to focus on AIDS and emphasize its international and local presence.

“It’s such an unspoken, underground issue, and in many ways it
Florida Law Review Symposium
Levin College of Law, Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom, 1 p.m.
 Pulitzer Prize winner Lucy Morgan, formerly of the St. Petersburg Times, and others discuss the reporter’s privilege.

“The Vagina Monologues”
Casting
Florida Gym, 5:30 p.m.
UF’s Helping Abused Women and Kids holds casting.

Gator Nights
Reitz Union, 6 p.m. to midnight
Gator Night presents three showings of “Lady in the Water,” Salsa Caliente, ornament making, International Coffeehouse, henna tattoos and free midnight breakfast.

Florida Players Performance
The Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.
Florida Players put on a free show of “Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind,” a neo-futurist attempt to perform 30 plays in 60 minutes. Also runs Saturday and Sunday.

SATURDAY
Holy Ghost Revival
Reitz Union North Lawn, noon
According to the church, students can experience divine healing and delivering power at the Difference Campus Ministries’ service.

SEC Football Game
Reitz Union Auditorium and the Orange and Brew, 6 p.m.
The Gators game will be broadcast on large screens. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the auditorium, 4 p.m. at the Orange and Brew.

SUNDAY
Sounds of the Season
University Auditorium, 6 p.m.
Annual university holiday musical program, followed by a candlelight procession to the Reitz Union, caroling and a reception after a tree lighting.

ANNOUNCEMENT
The Alligator will be tabling in Weimer Hall on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by to speak with staff members about getting involved at the paper next semester and jump-starting your journalism career.

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News Today
Stadium add-on adds up

By CHAD SMITH
Alligator Writer
smith@alligator.org

A massive addition to Ben Hill Griffin Stadium was originally set to cost about $15 million, but UF officials now estimate they'll need about $25 million to pay for the project.

The renovation, which will expand the southwest corner of the stadium by 50,000 square feet, is due to be completed by Fall 2008. Athletics Director Jeremy Foley discussed its details at a Thursday meeting of the UF Board of Trustees Committee on Finance and Facilities.

Once completed, the football coaches’ offices — which Foley called “very, very small” — will double in size, and the weight room’s size will triple.

The Gator Room, where athletic recruits gather when visiting the university, will double in size, and the office of the Associate Athletics Director will also expand, Foley said.

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CRIME

2 theft suspects arrested

By JAMES RIGNEY
Alligator Writer
jrigney@alligator.org

Two teenagers confessed Wednesday to committing more than 75 car burglaries in Gainesville during the past two months, police say.

Faulk said police are locating the pair who stole tens of thousands of dollars worth of items from unlocked cars.

“Hundreds of CDs, movies, laptops and over three dozen cell phones,” Faulk said. “Literally anything that wasn’t bolted down in the vehicle, they were taking.”

Faulk said police were investigating the rash of burglaries — some of them near UF — for about two months, but Faulk said the theft of a rifle and a handgun from an officer’s unmarked vehicle led detectives to Hatfield’s house.

Hatfield, of Newberry, was charged with possession of Xanax, which the detective found on him, and Hughes, of Gainesville, was charged with three counts of grand theft, Faulk said.

He said police would file more charges against the two after the items are tracked to an owner.

Hughes was charged with stealing the 1994 Honda Civic, Faulk said.
Three years ago, Brook Sallie made one of the hardest transitions of her young life. She transferred from private to public school in Worthington Springs. Brook went from having friends and making good grades to knowing hardly anyone and bringing home low marks on her report card.

Pam Sallie, Brook's mother, saw that her 14-year-old daughter was unhappy. But, while visiting a friend's house in 2003, her mother found an answer to Brook's troubles in a horse named Moon.

"Brook was shy, but she had always loved animals," her mother said.

There was only one problem — neither of them knew anything about horses.

Brook and her mother purchased the horse from their friends and brought him home. Pam Sallie went to a tractor supply store and bought two books on horses — one for her and one for her daughter.

Since then, the Sallie family has become a horse family. Although the experience has been one of trial and error, they now own three horses and Brook competes regularly in 4-H shows and rodeos.

Although she is young, Brook has accomplished quite a bit in three short years. One day, she hopes to parlay her talent with horses into a college education or even a professional career.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY JEREMIAH WILSON

Above: A trash fire burns in a barrel as Brook puts Cali back behind an electric fence after training with her. The winter months bring with them 4-H competitions and opportunities for young riders.

Right: Brook is constantly teaching her younger sister, Macie. She often lets the 7-year-old ride with her as she explains the best way to talk to a horse.

Below: Standing still as her horse trots around her, Brook lets Cali burn off some energy as she gets used to her commands. This technique, called "longing," is commonly used to train younger horses.

Above: Brook Sallie practices with her horse, Moon, many times a week. She waits until the late afternoon to ride due to the extreme summer heat.

Right: Brook's mother, Pam, usually helps Brook prepare the horses for riding and takes off work as often as possible to watch her daughter compete.
Sole celebration

By DERRICK PEAT
Alligator Contributing Writer

Sneaker enthusiasts now have a UF club dedicated to the appreciation of sneakers.

The club, Sole Mentality, was founded on Wednesday by UF student Ryan Raymond.

“I love sneakers,” said Raymond, the president of Sole Mentality. “And I know a lot of other people out there who love sneakers, too.”

There are groups dedicated to many interests, Raymond said, so there is no reason why students who have a deep respect for sneakers should not have a group.

“One of my friends gave the example that you could have a chocolate group if you wanted to,” he said. “So, I figured why not?”

Sole Mentality isn’t all about showing off your best sneakers, he said. Another main intention of the club is to bring different people together.

“We wanted to start something that wasn’t based on race, gender or anything like a fraternity,” he said. “We wanted to build something that is going to be really diverse.”

Although the approval for the club took longer than normal, he said that they faced no opposition in starting the group.

Raymond, a pre-pharmacy student, said he plans to have club members get involved in community service. They are already planning a clothing drive and a trip out to the YMCA to start a basketball tournament for kids, he said.

“We appreciate sneakers, but we want to reach out to the community as well,” Raymond said.

DANCE PERFORMANCE

Win or lose — show organizers promise satisfaction

By SHANNON WHITEHEAD
Alligator Contributing Writer

When Floridance President Rita Larchar scheduled the company’s Fall showcase for Dec. 2, she didn’t know that much of the town would be in Atlanta and the rest would be glued to their television sets.

Whether you’re counting down the days until the Southeastern Conference Championship or you’re one of those who have no interest in football, Saturday night is the chance to watch more than just the game.

UF’s original student-run dance company, Floridance, will present “Come on Closer” at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts at 7 p.m. on Saturday. The showcase will feature student choreography of ballet, lyrical, jazz and modern dance set to familiar music ranging from the Dixie Chicks to Queen.

“I love sneakers,” said Talley Fox at the company dress rehearsal Tuesday night. “You’ll be disappointed if we lose the football game, but you won’t be disappointed if you come watch our show.”

The conflicting performance date and championship game have caused a semester of chaos for Floridance officers, said publicity director Rachel Hummel.

“There have been many a tear and many a nightmare about rescheduling the date,” said Hummel, who was woken up in the middle of the night after dreaming that the conflict was resolved.

“When it comes down to it, though — the show must go on,” she said.

The company consists of 47 student dancers who have advanced studio training and choreography experience. Saturday’s showcase will also feature guest performances by the Extreme Dance Company and three UF dance majors.

Floridance receives limited funding from Student Government, but most of its resources come from fundraising and sponsorships that the dancers individually raise.

“The show is going to be really entertaining,” said Larchar. “We’ve put a lot of effort and passion into it, and we are not amateur dancers. You are guaranteed a great performance.”

“Come on Closer” is free to the public. For more information, visit www.floridance.com.
Darts & Laurels

We kick off with a but-what-about-Biscayne-Bay DART for Rep. Tom Tancredo of Colorado, who called Miami a “third-world country” earlier this week. The Republican lawmaker, a tireless enemy of brown people — er, illegal immigration — wants to build a wall along the Mexican border and deport scary, Spanish-speaking ethnic types back to wherever they came from.

Why? Because they threaten America’s creamy, white, Protestant goodness, that’s why! Fortunately, someone’s willing to stand up to bullies like Tancredo. In a Wednesday letter, Gov. Jeb Bush called his comments “disappointing” and “naive” — strong words, coming from a fellow Republican and the heir apparent to the Bush dynasty.

What’s left of it, anyway.

Next, we pass a godless-in-a-good-way LAUREL to UF’s own Daniel Morgan, who ventured into the lion’s den — Fox News Channel — to argue against a Ten Commandments monument in a Dixie County courthouse this week. Morgan appeared on “Hannity & Colmes” opposite a local attorney, who apparently fears a rash of graven images, false gods and air-covering if the six-ton Decalogue is removed.

He’s not the only one. Locals greeted the UF student with outright hostility — one shouted, “This atheist is coming down here to take away our Ten Commandments!”

Yet if Morgan planned to rip the monument in two with his superhuman atheist strength. Which is absurd. He only uses his powers to fight crime.

Besides, the really important parts of the Ten Commandments — thou shalt not kill, for instance — are already enshrined in American law. And in every other kind of law, for that matter. As for the other stuff? Keeping the Sabbath holy and all that? We say the Christians’ real beef is with the National Football League, not the justice system.

Finally, we hurl an it-rubs-the-lotion-on-its-skin DART at America’s psychopaths, who just love George W. Bush, according to a recent study at Southern Connecticut State University. In the 2004 presidential election, researchers discovered a positive correlation between psychiatric disorders and support for the president — the crazier the patients, the more likely they were to pick Bush over Sen. John Kerry.

Needless to say, we’re not shocked by the news. In fact, the president’s re-election campaign exhibited all the trademark symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. There were hallucinations (weapons of mass destruction in Iraq), delusions of grandeur (“Mission accomplished!”) and, of course, voices in Bush’s head (Jesus). We’re surprised no-one picked up on the signals sooner.

The question now is whether Democrats can cut into the president’s raving, drooling, heavily medicated base. After all, with no Bush on the ballot in 2008, the lunatic vote will be up for grabs. If Sen. Hillary Clinton starts wearing a tinfoil hat and mumbling about aliens reading her mind, you’ll know why.

Editorial

This is the last Darts & Laurels before Christmas break. Actually, make that Hanukkah break. Or Kwanzaa break. Or dirty hippie solstice break. Are we leaving anyone out? What about Toyotathons — are those some kind of religious thing? We can’t keep track.

Anyway, while you were making your holiday gift list, America’s culture war raged on in Gainesville and across the country. We’ve pulled together reports from the front lines for this week’s edition of...
Letters to the Editor

CLAS should explain Leavey's dismissal

UF Provost Janie Fouke and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Neil Sullivan have once again demonstrated their utter disdain for faculty and student governance concerns by prematurely removing John Leavey from his post as chair of the English department.

What is particularly alarming is that the administration feels no need to explain its actions. Since first going public with CLAS' five-year plan, the closest Sullivan has come to offering justification for Leavey's dismissal was vague and rather lame rhetoric about the need for fresh blood rather than a logical account of any substantive problems, with current departmental leadership. This is unacceptable.

Between lack of disclosure and feigned ignorance, the administration leaves this decision meaninglessness from the powers that be.

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Even the press has been unable to get a meaningful response from the powers that be. Between lack of disclosure and feigned ignorance, the administration leaves this decision — like many that have recently come directly from its authority and transparent in its decision making. Fouke and company have failed miserably on all three counts.

Rise to challenge of "minus" grades

UF President Bernie Machen should be lauded for doing what has been wildly unpopular — first by trying to raise tuition and now by working to implement tougher grading standards.

Many students operate under the assumption that if they keep their effort constant, they will see a drop in their grade point averages if UF implements "minus" grades.

But why let your GPA drop at all? This is a challenge to those who will rise to the top. Meet it or be satisfied that you didn't receive an "A." Minus grades will separate borderline cases from the highest achievers.

No one ever said change would be easy. From the current situation, it would seem that making academics more challenging at UF is obviously not a crowd-pleaser. But my hope is that once this measure passes, students will rise to the occasion and work hard to earn the grades they deserve — just as people in other schools that use minuses do.

Josh Gellers
UF alumnus

Students help Gainesville's homeless

I'm sick and tired of claims that UF is a parasite on the community. In a recent Yule column offensive to readers, Reznik felt the university has done a disservice to the homeless. The homeless pay no taxes and have no jobs. They simply rely on the charity and tax dollars of hard-working individuals.

But on the contrary, the university has set this town apart from the desolation that is Waldo, Starke and Williston, giving the homeless a better place to live. The only disservice the university is doing is granting people like Reznik a doctoral degree when the man appears to lack basic faculties in reason.

Edward Miller
4LS

Yule column offensive to real Christians

This letter is in response to "This December, forget Christmas and party like a pagan," a guest column in Wednesday's Alligator. In the past, the Alligator has used its editorials, columns and letters to foster tolerance of religion. But Wednesday's sophomoric condemnation of Christmas — with statements like, "Christmas, it seems, is just a bunch of Reindeer crap" — was clearly intended to be inflammatory.

I understand that Jed Levine, the column's author, doesn't have a good handle on logic. He declared, "Jesus was not born on Dec. 25. One key giveaway was the presence of shepherds at this birth. Shepherds don't go around with their flocks in the middle of winter."

But those who are not ignorant to Christmas know that Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem — where the average temperature is approximately 60 degrees Fahrenheit in December.

The fact that Levine attends UCLA doesn't surprise me. After all, the people in California think an Austrian weight lifter should run the state.

But as a former guest columnist of the Alligator, I'm confused as to why the editors would give any space to such obnoxious Christmas-bashing written by an ignorant wannabe pagan from the West Coast.

Christopher Ferraro
8EG
Speech sheds light on Africa’s ‘blood diamond’ trade

By ALEX TIEGEN
Alligator Writer
atiger@alligator.org.

Greg Campbell’s journey to track Sierra Leone’s blood-diamond trade began with a cab ride.

Campbell, then a freelance reporter, was discussing diamonds with a photographer when the taxi driver produced a list of precious stones for sale. Word spread that a pair of white journalists were looking for diamonds, and people flocked to Campbell’s hotel in Freetown, the capital, to sell their collections.

“Actually became a real hassle,” he said.

Campbell, the author of “Blood Diamonds: Tracing the Deadly Path of the World’s Most Precious Stones,” spoke to about 84 guests Thursday about a diamond’s trip from the mines to the jeweler’s case. The book provided material for the upcoming film “Blood Diamond,” starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

Blood diamonds — also called conflict diamonds — are diamonds mined in war zones and sold to fund armed forces. In Sierra Leone, blood diamonds were mined and sold by the Revolutionary United Front, the rebel group that fought the country’s government in a civil war from 1991 to 2002.

Campbell arrived in the country in 2001 as the war was winding down and the United Nations sent disarmament teams to the country. But the RUF was still active, and their victims, missing hands and other limbs, begged in the streets of Freetown.

“Was like this weird twilight between peace and war,” he said.

Campbell visited one of the country’s legitimate diamond mines. There, workers were paid 50 cents and given two cups of rice a day.

The United Nations had prohibited the purchase of blood diamonds from Sierra Leone since the mid-90s. But the RUF skirted the law by smuggling the diamonds into sanction-free countries, Campbell said.

Imports could buy the diamonds in these countries and sell them to companies like De Beers, he said.

Though there’s no proof De Beers knew they were purchasing conflict diamonds, there was no way they could not have known, Campbell said. Countries did not have enough mines to produce the number of diamonds bought from them, he said.

The United Nations negotiated with the rebels, but fighting had not ceased.

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The United Nations negotiated with the rebels, but fighting had not ceased.

Children kidnapped from villages by the rebels were brainwashed to fight for their abductors. Campbell thought of his son, but he knew he would have to fight children off if they attacked him.

On campus, Rebels would ignore anyone’s pleas for death and ask them to choose whether they wanted their arms cut off at the wrist or elbow, Campbell said.

“They would ask ‘Do you want short sleeves or long sleeves?’” he said.

But Campbell was able to communicate with the rebels. They were friendly, a trend common in the culture of Sierra Leone. Campbell found himself laughing at the jokes and slapstick of one rebel. Jango Kanara, a guide Campbell hired, worked for the RUF and Campbell still keeps in touch with him.

Campbell said he was not against the diamond trade in general. Botsawas’s government has a deal with De Beers and is very progressive. Americans should buy diamonds mined in Canada to ensure they did not come from a conflict zone, he said.

Political science senior Robert Fontaine was offended by what he perceived as Campbell’s lighthearted attitude. Campbell had said he was “annoyed” by a police officer who begged near his hotel.

The event was sponsored by Human Rights Awareness On Campus, the Center for African Studies, the International Center and other university organizations. It cost $1,500 including expenses.

Online voting issue brought before UF’s Supreme Court

STUDENTS CAN SIGN UP TO SPEAK AT THE HEARING.

By JESSICA DaSILVA
Alligator Writer

Voting naked may never be an option in Student Government elections if the UF Supreme Court decides Monday that online voting is unconstitutional.

Student Body President John Boyles has asked the Supreme Court to issue an opinion on the constitutionality of SG’s three available voting methods. The meeting to evaluate the voting options will be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the law school.

Students can sign up to speak at the hearing on Monday from noon to 3 p.m. in the Honor Court office on the third floor of the Reitz Union.

The three voting methods available are paper ballots, campus-computer voting and online voting. At issue is whether online voting conforms to state law.

Supreme Court judges will hear from former Supervisor of Elections Brian Augst and up to 23 concerned students, according to a press release.

Former Student Sen. Rosemarie Clouston, who has fought for online voting in past elections, said she was disappointed at how Boyles handled the situation.

“In the Spring election, 85 percent of students voted in favor of online voting,” she said.

Boyles could not be reached for comment.
Traditional languages and customs are not being passed on as American Indian families move away from their home territories. "Keeping the consciousness and knowledge of indigenous cultures alive would be a way the minor could decrease the death of the American Indian culture," he said. Ken Sassaman, chairman of the anthropology department, said his department is "eager and willing" to establish the minor. "I think the interest is there and the student demand is there," he said. His department already offers classes on American Indian issues and cultures. Students of mixed American Indian and white ethnicity are especially likely to be detached from their heritage, said Recvlohe, who is mixed. They often submit to white culture as the dominant way of life, he said. "They don't see themselves as American Indian or indigenous in any way," he said.

An American Indian studies minor would help fight stereotypes and misconceptions about indigenous cultures, Recvlohe said. It can also apply to other fields of study, since, for example, many English words are derived from American Indian languages. "There are a lot of issues that American Indian knowledge can contribute to," Recvlohe said.

An example of these is the Bering land bridge theory, which claims humans first immigrated to the Americas by crossing a span of land bridging the Bering Strait about 12,000 years ago. But Recvlohe read a book titled "Red Earth, White Lies," which said that American Indians inhabited the area for longer. "It kind of makes American Indians less complex," he said of the popular theory.

Recvlohe approached Student Government with his idea last summer, and a committee was created to advocate for the minor. The degree would encompass classes about indigenous cultures from the Americas and from the Arctic.

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Grade school gap

Gainesville schools show stark disparities

By JOANNA MCLENDON
Alligator Contributing Writer

Cole Harper’s fifth-grade classroom at Lake Forest Elementary School in East Gainesville has one computer — a yellowed Dell desktop — that his students don’t touch because he’s too busy trying to catch them up in math and reading.

Three thousand dollars, roughly 1 percent of Lake Forest’s budget this year, will go toward technology for the school, according to its annual improvement plan.

This is Harper’s second year teaching at Lake Forest, where the students score consistently lower in reading and math than their peers in Alachua County and across the state.

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School is located on the UF campus, just a 10-minute drive west of Lake Forest.

There, six iMac computers line one wall of Amanda Adimoolah’s fourth-grade classroom, each equipped with a set of noise-reduction headphones.

The K-12 school was the recent recipient of an $800,000 Enhancing Education through Technology grant sponsored by the Florida Department of Education. Every teacher at P.K. Yonge received a new laptop this year, Adimoolah said.

Technology, funding, and socioeconomic status are just some of the factors that spread a vast gap between these two Gainesville schools — a gap that is widened by test scores, parental involvement and behavioral patterns.

P.K. Yonge has a school grade of A for the past five years, and students have scored consistently higher than the state average in reading and math, according to SchoolMatters.com, a Web site sponsored by the National Education Data Partnership.

“Many are single parents who are struggling financially. They face some big demands that families who don’t struggle in poverty don’t understand or appreciate.”

Frank Burns
Lake Forest principal

For the past seven years, Lake Forest has received a grade of C, with the exception of the 2003-04 school year, when it received a B.

Schools are graded each year by the Florida Department of Education, and grades are based off of FCAT scores, learning gains and the progress made by the school’s lowest 25 percent of students.

Although P.K. Yonge’s and Lake Forest’s basic curricula are very similar, their extracurricular supplies are not.

Harper’s classroom at Lake Forest has one or two shelves of extracurricular reading material.

Adimoolah’s classroom has an extensive reading corner where books are sectioned off by author or genre: Beverly Cleary, Judy Blume; mysteries and the entire “Baby-sitters Club” series.

Adimoolah’s room is equipped with a microwave, mini-refrigerator and sink. Each student has a cubbyhole to store book bags and personal items.

Two boys and two girls sit at each of the five tables in her classroom. Freshly formed Play-Doh maps of Florida sit drying in the center of each table next to baskets filled with paper, pencils, calculators and miniature chalkboards.

According to P.K. Yonge’s Web site, students who have special needs are observed and interviewed and Individual Education Plans are designed to customize their education. If a student’s Individual Education Plan indicates that he or she needs more extensive services than can be provided at P.K. Yonge, the student is referred back to his or her home district school.

There is no such alternative for special-needs students at Lake Forest or any other elementary schools in Alachua County.

More than half the student population at Lake Forest is identified as being served in some sort of program designed for students with disabilities — from emotional handicaps to varying levels of mental and physical handicaps, according to the improvement plan.

These students are placed in regular grade-level classes taught by teachers certified to work with both gifted and disabled students — a method Harper calls “inclusive learning.”

A student in Harper’s class who suffers from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder sits at a desk removed from his classmates in order to guard from any added distractions and to receive more one-on-one instruction.

“Get busy,” is a command that Harper repeats frequently throughout the day.

Harper said he feels that he sometimes spends more time on discipline than necessary.

“Many times, problems from home can come in and invade the learning environment,” Harper said.

A fifth-grade girl was arrested in the lunchroom last year after threatening to run away and become physically violent toward one of the principals, he said.

Harper believes that because many of the students at Lake Forest are economically disadvantaged — 98 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch according to the improvement plan — and parental involvement is barely existent, these types of behavioral problems will continue to exist.

The fact that the Parent Teacher Association at Lake Forest is mostly made up of teachers is also constant discouragement, Harper said.

The school’s improvement plan states that parents are not

*SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 11*

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Lake Forest strategizes to improve FCAT scores

SCHOOLS, from page 10

plan states that parents are not actively involved in supporting student achievement at Lake Forest.

"It's frustrating to know that you're trying everything you can, and there's no help from home," he said. "The amount of payoff isn't what you expect it to be or as fast as you'd like."

Many of these parents were struggling learners themselves and may not have the best feelings toward school, said Lake Forest Principal Frank Bums.

"Many are single parents who are struggling financially," Burns said. "They face some big demands that families who don't struggle in poverty don't understand or appreciate."

At P.K. Yonge, high parental involvement at all income levels is a huge factor contributing to the school's success, said Wendy Warren, an admissions program assistant at P.K. Yonge. Parents at P.K. Yonge must pay an annual fee of $300 per year, unless they are eligible for the reduced fee of $150.

Most parents take the necessary actions to reinforce school standards at home, because they consider their children's attendance a privilege, the school's official Web site said.

Adimoolah says she e-mails her students' parents at least once a week, and most are quick to reply.

Many students' parents are faculty and staff members at UF, said Adimoolah.

"It's good because I never have to go to the nurse and wait for them to call my parents," said 9-year-old Ellis Cunningham, whose father teaches a middle school class at P.K. Yonge. "She'll just send me to my dad's classroom."

Parents must also provide their children with transportation to and from school. Because P.K. Yonge is its own school district under funding from the Florida Department of Education, it has no type of zoning requirement and no bus system, either.

"We have some kids who come here all the way from Cedar Key," Warren said. "Children from nine different counties attend here. The only requirement is that they provide their own transportation."

Students at Lake Forest come from the surrounding community. Nearly 80 percent of the student population is black, and only 30 percent of black students scored at or above grade level on their FCAT scores in 2006, according to the school's improvement plan. At P.K. Yonge the demographics of the student body are carefully tracked and manipulated to mirror the composition of Florida's student population, Warren said.

Fifty-two percent are male, 60 percent are white, 25 percent are black and 12 percent are Hispanic.

Not just any child is admitted to P.K. Yonge. Students are profiled under five categories: gender, race, family income, academic performance and Exceptional Education Students.

If the school loses a black male student, income level two, Warren searches the database for another black male within the same income level, giving priority to children of faculty and staff members, siblings of current students or children of alumni.

"There's no guarantee that new students will be functioning at the same academic level as students who have consistently attended Lake Forest."

Cole Harper
Lake Forest elementary teacher

About 700 students are on the waiting list to get in P.K. Yonge, Warren said.

Most students on the list are elementary-school age, and there are only about 350 elementary slots available.

The size of the school is a key aspect of why so many are waiting to get in, Warren explained. "It has a family-type atmosphere. Because we're so small, we don't have the discipline problems that other schools have."

While the student body at P.K. Yonge stays relatively stable and no bus system, either.

"The only requirement is that they have to face the challenge of a new wave of students."

The school attendance zones were redistricted at the beginning of the 2004-05 school year, and more than half the students had not attended Lake Forest the previous year, the school's improvement plan states.

More than one-third of the students enrolled at Lake Forest at the end of the school year entered after the school year started, and a comparable percentage of students who enrolled at the beginning of the school year did not complete the year at Lake Forest, the plan said.

Lake Forest's grade dropped from a B to a C that same year.

"Our grade suffers in part because we have such an influx of new students," Harper said. "The only hope we have is for a stable core student body."

For example, one teacher's class size at Lake Forest averaged 22 students, yet by the end of the year, 49 children had been through her class, Burns said.

"There's no guarantee that new students will be functioning at the same academic level as students who have consistently attended Lake Forest," Harper said.

Despite obstacles, Harper said he doesn't feel his job is unrewarding.

Last year, Lake Forest had among the highest gain scores on FCAT, Burns said.

Lake Forest has also implemented several strategies in order to raise FCAT scores in reading and math this year, which include smaller class sizes, a part-time math coach and individual and small group tutors, Burns said.

Since 2002, the number of students at Lake Forest who scored at or above grade level in writing proficiency has risen 36 percent, according to the Florida Department of Education Web site.

"The hope is there," Harper said. "That they'll be somebody and do something."
Rescuers urge pet adoption

By CLARE LION
Alligator Contributing Writer

Maddie’s Pet Rescue Project of Alachua County is teaming up with six partners to offer shoppers an alternative to busy mall stores. Maddie’s will be finding homes for Alachua County’s homeless pets during its Home for the Holidays Adopt-a-thon at The Oaks Mall behind Macy’s this weekend.

Several local pet groups will bring adoptable puppies and kittens to the event.

“There are so many homeless pets in Alachua County,” said Kim Huebner, a 22-year-old volunteer coordinator for the ACHS. “Our goal is to find homes for as many of them as we can.”

Huebner said animal shelters often struggle to find people who want to adopt pets that are not purebred, as many of those found in shelters are mixed-breed.

“A lot of times the pets with the best personalities are sitting in shelters just waiting for someone to love them,” Huebner said.

Huebner hopes the event will help pets get adopted in time for the holidays.

“The more pets we can adopt out, the more pets after the holidays we can take out of animal services and keep from being euthanized,” said Lori Reiman, adoption coordinator for Haile’s Angels Pet Rescue.

Students emotional after watching films

FILM, from page 1

can be prevented through safe sex,” she said. “People don’t want to talk about it. They don’t know it’s something affecting people right around them.”

The films draw about 30 attendees each night.

UF sophomore Erin Lustik came to watch the film Tuesday.

She said many of her friends didn’t understand why she would want to go see a film on the tragedy of the epidemic, but she thought that the experience was worth being upset over.

Baily Hancock, a co-president of Vox, agreed.

“Everything isn’t always sunshine and happiness,” Hancock said. “But it’s knowledge and awareness that will change the world.”

Funds start progress

CONCERT, from page 1

purchase necessary supplies for the institute.

Ideally though, Lavigne said, “they’d raise enough funds for a director and an institute.

The California band Far East Movement was the headliner for the concert, which was featured on the soundtrack for the movie “The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift.”

The event, which was held at the Venue in downtown Gainesville, cost about $4,000 and had about 200 attendees.

Organizers raised about $1,000 in presale tickets, which cost $10. Tickets were then $12 at the door before 11 p.m. and $15 the rest of the night.

“I think the concert was a great idea,” co-director Kenneth Copeland said. “Now we’re aware, and it was a starting point.”

Copeland and Lavigne hoped to raise about $2,000 total to donate toward the institute.

He said the creation of an institute is an important issue for the Asian-American student population at UF.

Lavigne said that in the past, people fought to create the Institute of Black Culture and La Casita.

“We need to build on our dreams,” Lavigne said.

The Beta Chapter of Florida would like to announce that the following students have been elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

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WALK TO UF 1BR/1BA apt. Avail 494/900, COLLEGE MANOR, water incl. Parking Avail Contact Sarah 501-313-7718 Sublease January-August. Pet ok 12/8-4-3

1BR in 4BR/4BA LEXINGTON CROSSING, Summer lease $470/mo incl. Great roommates Big screen TV. Call 941-219-9099 12/6-4-3

**SUBLEASE NOW!!**
Campus Lodge Spring 07/1. In 4BR/ 4BA apt. Great UF Roommates! Great pool. Food loaded $514/mo. Nic, 766-253-7663 12/6-4-3

Sublease 2BR/2BA in BOARDWALK APTS on SW 13th St. $760/bdmo/ $7/07/07. 386-754-7630 12/6-4-3

**4 Roommates**
Roommate Matching HERE Oxford Manor 377-2777
The Landings 336-3383
The Laurels 335-4455
Cabinet 577-2901
Hidden Lake 374-3985
12/6-7-2

Female roommate for one/two female UF students. Quiet, Responsible, female only, 60 second walk to UF, Old house charm with all amenities. Avail Now. 400 - up. 320-536-2181 Lv Roommate. Private Owner 12-6-7-2

FEMALE ROOMMATES WANTED for four bedroom furnished house. $450/mo + utilities. 1 mile from campus on bus route. Non-smoker. No Dogs. Avail immediately. Call 954-865-7197 1-8-14-4

Housemate Roommate needed in 3BR, $500/mo inclusion. Available immediately.
Call (904) 331-0733 12/6-9-4

Female roommate needed for UF Basketball. $350/mo $300 cash upfront w/leasing. Bus routes 6 & 34.
Call Karen 325-222-4945 12-6-10-4

Female roommate wanted for Living Crossing. 3BR/2BTA apt, $450/mo - $300 cash upfront w/leasing. Rooms $500 each.
Call Karen 325-222-4945 12-6-10-4

Female roommate wanted for 3BR/1BA apartment close to campus. $490/ month. Everything included. Available immediatly
Call (904) 331-0733 12-6-9-4

MOVE IN NOW!!!
Female roommate. Release. $490/mo included. Furnished 1BR/1BA Call Jess 305-509-1474. 12-6-9-4

**Roommates needed for 4BR/4BA condo near bus on run #126. $350/mo + utilities No Pet owners/pets. Serious female student preferred, non-smoker. Pool 946-446-1246. 12-6-8-4

QUIET ROOM AVAILABLE 12-1-00
No smokers, no pets. 352-373-3807 12-6-8-4

**Classifieds...**
Continued on next page.
4 Rooms


5 Real Estate

Pre-Construction, New, & Existing Condos & Houses for Sale. Find Affordable Prices. Search Here or Get a Free and Complete List Via Email. Visit Florida's #1 Listing Source. 352-281-3551, Matt Price, Campus Realty. 12-6-72

For Sale by Owner. Reduced to $214,900. Walnut Creek on NW 39th Ave, 1 mile west of Hwy 441 & 3 miles north of UF. 3/2 perfect condition, 2 years new, over 1,000 sq. ft. Luxury master suite with private walk-in closet & private walk-in closet and bath with whirlpool jet. Flooring is laminate and includes tile for in the tile baths. 2 car garage & maintenance free foyer. CONVERT TO YOUR RENT MONEY INTO EQUITY! GALAXY Real Estate. Call Harold at (302) 373-2207 to see. 12-6-9-5

3 BR from UF. Gated Community. For Sale. Cabbage Palms. 1BR, 1BA, fireplace, tile, laundry rm, ensuite appliances, creek view $95,000. Call 352-505-4986. 12-6-9-5

1BR/1BA condo, 2 miles from UF in very quiet attractive NE. New floors, utility closet. $700. Call 386-462-3006 12-6-18-5

Large 2BR 2BA townhouse in the ALLIGATOR CLUB. 1/2 utilities. Negotiable move-in date. Lg & clean. 352-365-5678. 12-6-4-4

Large 2BR 1BA house with back yard & pool in gated community. Furnished living area, WD, Pets welcome! $400 + 1/3 electric includes water, gas, cable, speed. High-speed internet. Great location! Deposit Available immediately, will hold for January. 352-213-2833. 12-6-5-4


NEVLY RENOVATED! 1 & 2 BR units starting at $395/mo. 2BR/2BA Large open plan w/extra closet storage, walk-in closets, washer/dryer. $350 + $50/mo. Stands from Shands, VA, Dental $75/mo. Extra closet storage, washer/dryer. $350 + $50/mo. Ask for free brochure. 352-328-6311. (352) 395-0562. 12-6-5-4

Large comfortable home walking distance to UF. Grad level student desired for roommate. No pets, no smoking. Monthly to-month lease available, includes all utilities. Call 352-293-0260 12-6-5-4

2 female roommates needed to share expenses. Morningside complex, 2.5 story 3BR/2.5BA townhouses. Pool. 361-351-3066 12-6-5-4

$325/BR. 2BR/2BA in an older, historical neighborhood. Large family room, backyard, pool, fish-pond court, w/d, internet, no smoking, non-smoker preferred, $400/mo. Everything included. Call 681-899-1285 12-6-5-4

Large 2BR townhouse w/ back yard & pool plus 1 car garage in nice neighborhood. Furnished living area, WD, Pets welcome! $400 + 1/3 electric includes water, gas, cable, speed. High-speed internet. Great location! Deposit Available immediately, will hold for January. 352-213-2833. 12-6-5-4

One-two non-smoking female roommates wanted for a 3BR/2BA house in Stonecrest. Spring 07’ only. $300/mo everything included. Wireless Internet, cable, phone. No pets. Call 561-943-1868 or maxsysum@ufl.edu 12-6-5-4

Female roommate for 3/2, WD, Ave 3 n of UF, 2BR. 352-670-6340 12-6-4-4

Responsible female roommate wanted, non-smoker, 2BR/2BA townhouse, in ND. Electric, water, cable, internet, $400/mo. Bus route, 2 miles from UF. $745/mo. 304-703-2622 12-6-6-5

RANTED: CLEAN female to share fully furnished nice 2BR/2BA 1470 mobile home with mobile on Archer Rd. 4 min from UF. Pool, WC, WD, cable, & phone. No pets. Rent $300 + utilities. 352-281-1415 12-6-5-4

6 Furnishings

Bed - QUEEN - $100 ORTHOPEDIC. Extra thick, pillowtop, mattress & box. New, never used in plastic. Can deliver. 352-372-7400 will deliver. 12-6-7-2


BED - KING - $170 PILLOWTOP mattress & box springs. Orthopedic rated. Name brand, now, never been used, in plastic with warranty. Call 352-372-6099 Can deliver. 12-6-7-2

CHERRY LIEBHED SOFA sold with Pillowtop Mattress & Box. All new still boxed. Cost $1500, sale price $550 352-332-7766

Sofa $79 Brand new in pkg 332-776-1611

BEDROOM SET: 7pc Cherry, Queen/King bed, dresser w/mirrors, 2 nightstands, chest of drawers. New, never used, in plastic. Can deliver. Retail $950, must sell, sale price $400 (352) 372-7400 12-6-7-2

SOFAS & LOVESEAT's 100% Italian leather. Brand new in plastic with warranty $2500. Discounted $750. 352-377-8646 12-6-7-5

DIETETIC SET 5pc $85 Brand new in box. Never used. 352-377-9848 12-6-7-2

7 Most Wanted

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$12,000+ Brand new in plastic. Never used. Can deliver. 352-376-7449

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Orthopedic pillow-top sets, brand name matching sets not grained or exhausted. Still
in plastic, direct from factory! 362-333-7516.
12-6-72-6

BED - QUEEN New orthopedic pillowtop
mattress and boxspring set. Brand name, brand
new, still in plastic with warranty. Can deliver.
$100 352-377-9846. 12-6-72-6

FUTON - $60 Solid Oak Mission Style. With
plush mattress $140. All brand NEW still in
box. Can deliver. 352-333-7516 12-6-72-6

Pool Table - Gorgeous 8' All wood table.
Leather pockets, Italian "f" style, cushion top. Brand
cut in plastic. MUST SELL. Retail $500. Sell $95. Can deliver 352-377-9846 12-6-72-6

Hot Tub/Spa - $1295 Brand New Loaded
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99 FORD CONTOUR SE
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CAR CLEANER - LOT PERSON Full time, must be hard-working and dependable with clean drivers license. Apply in person only at SoutheastCar Agency 39th Avenue. 12-1-5-14


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You can place your ad in person by coming to our office at 1105 W Uni-
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By ANTONIO GONZALEZ

Alligator Staff Writer
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Imagine if Ponte Vedra Beach Nease High Coach Craig Howard followed Tim Tebow to UF and became the Gators’ new offensive coordinator. Controversial? Probably. But unsuccessful? Not at another Southeastern Conference school.

Arkansas offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn seemed to many like the right man for the job. He has been the Gators’ offensive coordinator for the past four years, and he has led the Gators to four consecutive SEC championships and two national titles.

However, the losses have occurred against elite opponents, including No. 1 Florida, Florida State, and Alabama. But Malzahn continued to prove himself as a top offensive coordinator.

With his experience and proven track record, Malzahn was hired to work with the Florida Gators. His leadership and strategic mindset have been crucial to the team’s success.

Malzahn’s influence on the Gators can be seen in their improved offensive output. Under his guidance, the Gators have ranked first in the SEC in total offense for three consecutive years.

Malzahn has proven to be the Gators’ most valuable recruit, as he has brought a new level of success and consistency to the team. His work ethic and coaching abilities have been instrumental in the Gators’ recent triumphs.

UF WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

UF hopes to end road woes against South Alabama

By BRIAN STEELE

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Saying that road games have been unkind to the Gators would be an understatement. So far, all four UF losses have come away from home and by an average of just 21 points per game.

The Gators (3-4) have been outscored, outrebounded and — at some points — outplayed, but they have fought back and come out victorious.

However, the losses have occurred against some of the top teams in the country. The Gators are currently ranked 25th in the Associated Press Top 25, including No. 16 California and No. 18 Rutgers.

But UF may have found a remedy for these road woes. They proved they can beat up on any team they want, including the Florida State Seminoles. UF defeated Florida State 87-71 in a game where they never trailed.

The Gators have certainly improved their play on the road. With their conference schedule ahead, the Gators will be looking to prove themselves against tougher opponents.

Gators to wrap up fall schedule

UF IS LOOKING TO SET ITS SPRING ROSTERS AFTER THE MEETS.

By MIKE MCCALL

Alligator Writer

The UF swimming and diving teams have had a successful fall season, winning the SEC Championships and setting multiple records. The teams are now looking to set their rosters for the spring season.

Swimming

"This is just another step along the road to the spring championships," Coach Greg Troy said. "We should be a little stronger than we’ve been to this point, since everyone has had more practice. It’s a little more relaxed now." The Gators have won their team title at the SEC Championships, and they will now focus on the upcoming dual meets.

The Gators will compete against teams like Alabama, Texas, and Ohio State. The team will be looking to build on their success, and they will be aiming for a spot in the NCAA Championships.

Diving

The UF women’s diving team has had a strong fall season, with multiple records being set. The team will now focus on setting their rosters for the spring season.

The Gators will compete against teams like Texas, Florida State, and Arizona. The team will be looking to build on their success, and they will be aiming for a spot in the NCAA Championships.

The Gators have had a successful fall season, and they will be looking to carry that momentum into the spring season.

Jennifer LaBrie / Alligator Staff
Gators recruit No. 1 punter, hope to get No. 5 kicker

By MIKE MCCALL
Alligator Writer

It's no secret that UF's kicking game is having problems. What has remained a secret to many Gators fans, however, is the talent of incoming punter commit Chas Henry and place-kicking protégé Salvatore Dimaufo.

Henry — a 6-foot-4, 200-pound quarterback/punter from East Paulding High in Dallas, Ga. — is the No. 1 rated punter in the nation.

In his senior season, Henry has thrown for more than 1,700 yards and 17 touchdowns while punting the Georgia 4A state playoffs, but his arm is not what has gotten him committed.

"Chas is better than Jason ever was at this level," Reid said.

Henry's skills as a high school quarterback have been a detriment to his punting stats, but it's a trade that Reid is more than willing to make.

"He's only punted a few times because he's been so successful at quarterback. His punting average was around 45 yards, but he's only punted 15 times because we've scored 500 points this year on offense," Reid said.

Henry's ability to throw and his comfort carrying the football have made him dangerous in punt situations. Those times this season, he turned punts into big passing gains.

Henry's talent could have made a big difference for the Gators this season. UF's only loss of the year against Auburn, a key play was the Tigers' block and touchdown return of an Eric Wilbur punt that he mishandled and tried to kick between oncoming players.

Henry also has skills as a place-kicker and is a valuable backup for field goals. He has made 3 of 6 on the season, but most of the attempts were longer than 40 yards.

"He was offered just about any school you could name," Reid said. "After he decided to go to Florida, he quit entertaining offers. He has committed 6 of 10 field goals this season with a long of 49 yards. Three of his misses were 50-plus yard attempts. Dimaufo has also recorded three successful onside kicks.

His junior season featured more impressive stats, however, as his team's offense was significantly better. Last season, Dimaufo was 13 of 14 on field goals with a long of 52 and one miss from 46. He also had a 62-yard punt and 32 touchbacks on 45 kickoffs. He has only missed 3 of 61 extra points in the last two years on 179 attempts.

Swain, a Gators fan, would gladly trade UF kicker Chris Hetland's statistics for Dimaufo's.

"Every time I see (Hetland) miss, I think, 'Sal could have made that,'" Swain said.

Dimaufo has narrowed his college choices to UF, Georgia and Central Florida but has yet to receive an offer.

"Swain: 'He's really interested in Georgia and Florida. I think if either offers him a scholarship, he'll take it.'

Dimaufo has also excelled on his high school's soccer team, which went to the 4A state semifinals last season.

Verbal commitments are non-binding until National Signing Day.

UF FOOTBALL/recruiting

Machen might push for playoffs

NOTES, from page 28

having a president who is involved in such matters.

"I knew when I was hired at Florida, I knew our president was going to be in tune," Meyer said. "I am not going to somewhere I don't want to go.

While Meyer said the need for a play-off system was a no-brainer, he stressed how difficult it would be to create a viable system.

"I would just hate to be the (Bowl Championship Series) committee," Meyer said. "How would you like to be hired to do a job, but you can't really ever get it done right but, boy, you can have this job? That's basically what they have.

Meyer said he was asked to speak about the BCS in front of Congress in January but he declined the invitation because it was right in the middle of recruiting season.

"They wanted my opinion, because I was a non-BCS coach that made it to the BCS, and now I am at a school like Florida," Meyer said. "I look back at that, and I think I probably should have done that. But once again, my job is to recruit, not to do that other stuff."

Four players could take Brewer's spot

HOOPS, from page 28

play against FSU despite fighting off the remnants of an upper respiratory infection. Donovan said he might consider starting the 6-foot-11 Noah at small forward, senior Chris Richard at center and junior Al Horford at power forward. The Gators used such a lineup in the second half against Kansas.

"When we went out with a big lineup, it helped," Donovan said, "but there's still some more things we have to add in for those guys.

Donovan can also look to his freshmen to contribute more.

"Weber and Mitchell, who have been averaging 15.1 and 11.9 minutes per game, can both play small forward.

Freshman guard Brandon Powell broke out against Southern, scoring 10 points and dishing out four assists. Donovan, however, is more excited about Powell's defensive skills.

"The one thing I feel very comfortable with Brandon (about) is he is a very good defender," Donovan said. "He's got good athleticism. He puts his body in front of plays. He'll try to step up and take some charges. He can hopefully build off of this game. It was a good game for him because he got a chance to build a little confidence."

Whatever Donovan decided to throw at the Seminoles, he refuses to let Brewer's absence impede UF's success.

"There are no excuses here," Donovan said. "We gotta go out and play. We are not the first team to deal with injuries or illnesses or sicknesses during the course of the year. I don't think its any built-in excuse for our team. I think we're expected to go out and play to the best of our abilities.

Gators to face tough, underrated Arizona State in second round of NCAAAs

VOLLEY, from page 28

The Gators failed to close out FAMU definitively in the third game. The Rattlers felt the score at 24 and stayed close until the Gators found their blocking rhythm to pull ahead. UF coach Mary Wise didn't seem too concerned by the tight third game.

"If you tell me right now that in the next match we'll be 2-0, we'll take it," she said. "I think the key was, when it was back and forth, two key blocks by us that separated us.

Senior Stefanie Douglas started at opposite hitter and finished with seven kills and eight blocks. The Sun Devils, UF's next opponent, defeated College of Charleston 3-1 on their way to the second round.

ASU's 16-14 record is deceiving. Thirteen of its losses came to teams ranked in the Top 25. Also, it's hard to rank the Pacific-10, which has produced the last five national champions.

The Sun Devils have one of the nation's best defensive players in junior libero Sydney Donahue, who set the Pac-10 single-season digs record at 719 against the College of Charleston. Wise looks forward to seeing Donahue match up against UF freshman libero Kyle Cusick.

"In many ways, it will be our battle of liberos," she said.

SOCCER PLAYERS Heckle FAMU: Several fans, who identified themselves as members of the UF soccer team after the match, shouted at FAMU players. They constantly chanted "Ross Rojas, a Hispanic, throughout the night."

"Hey, Ross. He make like Rosa Parks and sit down," one of the soccer players yelled.

Soccer players yelled other ethnic-related epithets at Rojas throughout the match.

Also, members of the team also shouted, "Your camel toe got in the way," when a Florida player failed to dig the ball and "Give the anorexic girl a doughnut," to one of the Rattlers players.

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Gators sweep FAMU in first round

By JOSH ARMSTRONG
Alligator Writer
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You can’t blame Florida A&M for getting a little creeped out.

The No. 7 UF volleyball team’s NCAA Tournament opener looked more like an August match than a late November one as the Gators (29-2) swept FAMU 30-18, 30-16, 30-26. With the win, UF advanced to play Arizona State tonight at 7 in the O’Connell Center.

“We were a little bit scared,” Rattlers outside hitter Maricé Hampton said. “More scared than we should have been.”

Maybe it was UF junior outside hitter Marcie Hampton, whose 21 kills on .559 hitting outdid the country’s No. 2 hitter Andonova, who had 22 kills but hit just .279.

“A lot of my kills came from great passing and great setting from Angie (McGinnis),” Hampton said. “For us to be able to pass as well as we did (was important).”

The rest of the Gators hit just as well. UF’s .429 hitting was its best of the season and its second best ever in the tournament. Middle blocker Kristina Johnson hit .692 with nine kills, while Kelsey Bowen hit .529 with 11 kills.

The Rattlers appeared tense, which contrasted with the Gators’ loose demeanor. UF’s bobbled digs were laughed off. Its mistimed jumps seemed to be no matter.

McGinnis said some of the calmness came from having watched FAMU play when the Rattlers came to Gainesville in the Campus Credit Union Classic in September.

“That helped us a little — well me, anyway — to know their personnel from previous years, their main outside hitter,” McGinnis said.

Hampton credited the Gators’ relaxed aura of the calmness came from knowing their personnel from previous years, their main outside hitter.

Hampton said some of the calmness came from knowing the Rattlers would use Bamberg as a second setter, which seemed to be no matter.

McGinnis said some of the calmness came from knowing the Rattlers would use Bamberg as a second setter.

That’s not to say it was all too easy for UF.

SEE VOLLEY, PAGE 27

UF FOOTBALL

Everett questionable; Spikes may start

By BRYAN JONES
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Senior linebacker Earl Everett is still questionable for Saturday’s Southeastern Conference Championship Game, but running back DeShawn Wynn and receiver Percy Harvin should both play, UF coach Urban Meyer said Thursday.

Everett re-aggravated his sprained left ankle against FSU, and he has been limited in practice this week.

Freshman Brandon Spikes will start for Everett on the outside if the senior can’t play.

“Spikes had a very good week,” Meyer said. “But I am still hoping I see No. 30 playing for us. He’s played his best games in the some of the big wins we’ve had.”

Everett is the team’s leading tackler with 72. Harvin, who suffered a neck injury last week, is back to 100 percent, but Meyer said he will watch Wynn closely during Saturday’s game.

“DeShawn Wynn is a question of how much contact,” Meyer said. “We haven’t hit him (in practice).”

PLAYOFFS?: Amid reports that UF president Bernie Machen plans to push for a playoff system at the next SEC presidents’ meeting, Meyer said he appreciates the idea.

SEE NOTES, PAGE 27
This one’s a want to play for UF’s Jackson and Danny Wuerffel, who made trips to Austin visits as roadshow en route to an all-time high.

“I think that’s a win for us,” senior defensive back Jarvis Herring said. “It’s a win for us, and Jarvis Herring, who left Florida with corner Eyebrows, was the only winner with corner Eyebrows. This one’s for our teammates, the coaches, the fans.”

If UF’s seniors win SEC title, they ought to take their fans’ seats for a game at Tennessee with a gutsy fourth-down run.

The Gators’ 21-14 victory over Florida State on Oct. 18, didn’t come easy, but it was enough to give the Gators their first championship in a decade.

Above: Linebacker Brandon Siler (40) celebrates with defensive lineman Ray McDonald during UF’s 32-24 victory against Wyoming on Sept. 3, 2005. This is McDonald’s final shot at his first SEC championship.

Right: McDonald defends during the Georgia game on Oct. 28. He hopes to bring home a ring to his father, who has cancer.

The Gators were down 10-7 at halftime, but UF’s seniors win their first championship, they ought to take their fans’ seats for a game at Tennessee with a gutsy fourth-down run.

That’s coming from someone who played on Urban Meyer’s 2003 SEC championship team, which bodes well for the future of the Southeastern Conference for the first SEC title since 2000.

Senior receiver Jeenalle Cornelius, then a 2006 Editors Choice, son while displaying flashes of brilliance offensively that he’s already putting on himself.”

“I always thought with the way we were recruiting after 2000, we were going to get better in a hurry,” Nutt said. “I was right.”

Rewind to January, 2004. Nutt nearly accepts a job with Southern Cal, where he put probation behind us that things were going to get better in a hurry.” Nutt said. “I was right.”

But 2004 started firm on Southern Cal. With Nick Stover, the Razorbacks were obliterated in the title game by LSU 38-30. That was all the motivation the Razorbacks needed to regroup and work for a conference title.

The Razorbacks would go hog wild for their first SEC title win against the Seminoles of Florida State.

Left: UF Coach Urban Meyer watches from the sidelines during the Gators’ 21-14 win against the Seminoles on Nov. 4. UF rolled over FSU in overtime.

Below: UF receiver Andre Caldwell celebrates with running back Jesse Hester after defeating Vanderbilt in Nashville, 38-14 on Nov. 4. Cornelius and Noirn are both juniors and NFL prospects who might not have any more SEC title shot after Saturday.

The Gators did play at the Georgia Dome that season — Florida won 34-20. The Gators had been led by Steve Spurrier, who had left Florida to take over at Southern Cal.

The Gators surrendered leads to Tennessee and Arkansas in 1992. Now, Nutt is there to stay as the Razorbacks (10-2, No. 10).

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The Gators surrendered leads to Tennessee and Arkansas in 1992. Now, Nutt is there to stay as the Razorbacks (10-2, No. 10).
UF RUN vs. ARKANSAS RUN DEFENSE
UF rushes for 156.8 yards per game; ARKANSAS allows 117.3 yards per game.
KEY PLAYERS: UF: RB Tim Tebow (223 attempts, 632 yards, 5.1 avg., 6 TDs); ARKANSAS: RB Felix Jones (127 att. 961 yards, 7.6 avg., 4 TDs).
ANALYSIS: UF's running attack might be nonexistent Saturday. Wynn and Percy Harvin are battling injuries, and Tebow's sneaky play doesn't fool defenses anymore. Against FSU last week, the Gators rushed for negative yardage in the second half.
ADVANTAGE: ARKANSAS

UF PASS vs. ARKANSAS PASS DEFENSE
UF passes for 241.4 yards per game; ARKANSAS allows 182.6 yards per game.
KEY PLAYERS: UF: QB Chris Leak (254-540 yards, 21 TDs, 11 INTs, 63.9 pct., 151.06 rating); ARKANSAS: Jr. WR Andre Caldwell (52 rec., 540 yards, 10.4 avg., 5 TDs).
ANALYSIS: Leak has picked up his fourth-quarter play from last two weeks, but he will need to be on his game all 60 minutes against the Razorbacks. Caldwell has come on lately to be UF's main possession receiver. Anderson leads the Southeastern Conference in sacks.
ADVANTAGE: UF

ARKANSAS RUN vs. UF RUN DEFENSE
ARKANSAS runs for 236.3 yards per game; UF allows 69.7 yards per game.
KEY PLAYERS: ARKANSAS: Sr. RB Darren McFadden (244 att., 1485 yards, 6.1 avg., 14 TDs); ARKANSAS: Jr. RB Felix Jones (127 att., 961 yards, 7.6 avg., 4 TDs).
ANALYSIS: UF's run defense will be exposed this week by McFadden, the best running back in the country. Add in Jones, who may be the second-best rusher in the SEC, and Arkansas could run for more than 200 yards. The last time the Gators faced a two-pronged rushing attack, South Carolina's duo ran for 134 yards, averaging about 5 yards per carry.
ADVANTAGE: ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS PASS vs. UF PASS DEFENSE
ARKANSAS passes for 148.2 yards per game; UF allows 195.6 yards per game.
KEY PLAYERS: ARKANSAS: Sr. QB Casey Dick (745 yards, 8 TDs, 3 INTs, 51.7 pct., 144.92 rating); ARKANSAS: Jr. WR Marcus Monk (46 rec., 880 yards, 19.1 avg., 10 TDs); ARKANSAS: Sr. WR Reggie Nelson (48 tackles, 5 INTs).
ANALYSIS: Monk has recorded some amazing statistics considering that Arkansas doesn't have a reliable arm to get him the ball. It will be interesting to see if UF coach Urban Meyer plays Nelson more against the run, risking Monk's deep threat. If Nelson stays back, Monk will be neutralized.
ADVANTAGE: UF

SPECIAL TEAMS
KEY PLAYERS: UF: Kicker Chris Hetland (3-12 FGs, long 29); Punter Eric Wilbur (43 punts, 42.9 avg., long 64); ARKANSAS: So. Kicker Jeremy Davis (6-11 FGs, long 44); Sr. Punter Jacob Skinner (49 punts, 48.4 avg., long 50).
ANALYSIS: What if the SEC Championship comes down to Hetland attempting a 30-yard field goal? Start looking for Capital One Bowl tickets. Wilbur might have played his best game of the season last week. For Arkansas, both McFadden and Jones have returned kickoffs for scores this season.
ADVANTAGE: ARKANSAS

INTANGIBLES
The Gators come into this game with all the momentum. The offense put up an amazing fourth-quarter drive to defeat the hapless Seminoles last Saturday. The defense stymied Drew Weatherford. The Razorbacks lost to rival LSU, ending any slim chance they had at the national title. Meyer is a better big-game coach than Houston Nutt, and some Gators have played at the Georgia Dome before at the Peach Bowl two years ago.
ADVANTAGE: UF

How They Match Up

Jennifer LaBrie and Nick Zaccardi / Alligator Staff