AFTERSHOCK

Meyer let out of jail
By KIM WILMATH
Alligator Writer
kwilmath@alligator.org

Andrew Meyer, the UF student who was Tasered and arrested by University Police Department officers Monday, was released from jail about 9 a.m. Tuesday. Meyer, a telecommunication senior, spent the night in jail but was in good spirits, said Robert Griscti, his attorney.

Griscti said Meyer and his family were very surprised at the UPD officers' actions and do not think Taser use was appropriate.

He said UPD has not attempted to communicate with the family.

Meyer left jail around noon with his parents and attorney.

UPD released an offense report Tuesday revealing details of Meyer's arrest. According to Officer Nicole Lynn Mallo's account, Meyer told UPD officers: "I am not mad at you guys, you didn't do anything wrong, you were just trying to do your job."

During a news conference Tuesday afternoon, UF President Bernie Machen said he had not talked to Meyer or his family.

But he said he would be willing if they wanted to.

Machen announced UF will ask the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to conduct an investigation of the appropriateness of Taser use.

Two officers, Eddie King and Mallo, have been placed on paid administrative leave.

Alligator Staff Writer Andrew Tan contributed to this report.

Protest attracts hundreds
By JESSICA DaSILVA
Alligator Staff Writer
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Standing outside the University Police Department on Tuesday, about 300 sweat-drenched UF students demanded explanations for the Taser of a student by UPD officers Monday.

Students gathered on the Plaza of the Americas and marched to UPD and Emerson Alumni Hall in protest of the censorship, arrest and Taser of Andrew Meyer during a Monday speech by Sen. John Kerry.

Meyer, a UF telecommunication senior, asked Kerry, a Democrat who represents Massachusetts-and a former presidential candidate, about his involvement in a secret society at Yale University and the 2004 presidential election.

At noon, the 300 students, some wearing shirts that read "End pig violence" and "Don't tase me, bro," gathered on the Plaza of the Americas to make signs and get ready for the march.

A sign made by Emily Soergel, a 22-year-old UF alumna, asked, "Who will guard the guards themselves?"

Soergel said UPD's Taser use was disgusting.

"When the people who are supposed to protect you go beyond the law themselves, it's scary to think who will protect you now," she said.

On the way to UPD down Newell Drive, students chanted, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, police brutality has got to go!" and "No justice, no peace, no Tasers for po-lieae."

Packed closely together, students stood outside UPD.

See PROTEST, PAGE 5
Office overwhelmed with calls

By APRIL DUDASH
Alligator Writer

Opinions bombarded the UF Office of University Relations after University Police Department officers Tasered telecommunication senior Andrew Meyer on Tuesday, and many of the responses the University relations office has received have been rude and full of bad language.

”What scares me is what the police would have done had cameras not been there,” said Weissman, who watched with students from the Plaza of the Americas to the University Police Department on Tuesday as part of a protest.

Students watched with mouths agape as footage of the arrest played in some university classrooms. Debates among students about the incident replaced Tuesday’s lectures in other classes.

Facebook groups were also formed in response to Meyer’s arrest.

“Don’t Taser Me. On the Web” had more than 1,200 members as of Tuesday night, and “Gators for the Tasing of Andrew Meyer” had 56.

Meyer’s friends posted news and video clips of the arrest on his own Web site while he was in custody.

Messages on Meyer’s Facebook profile read “you are a celebrity!” and “you’re a star, milk this for all it’s worth.” One student asked Meyer to sign his copy of Tuesday’s Alligator.

One of several videos of the arrest posted on YouTube was viewed more than 500,000 times, and a Wikipedia entry titled “University of Florida Taser incident” was created.

Alex Sommer, a UF senior who marched with students from the Plaza of the Americas to the University of St. Augustine. Tour our new state of the art facilities

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Machen ‘embarrassed,’ says FDLE will investigate

By KIM WILMATH
Alligator Writer
kwilmath@alligator.org

At a news conference Tuesday afternoon, UF President Bernie Machen said he was “embarrassed” by the events at Sen. John Kerry’s speech Monday.

Machen said he regretted that civil discourse did not occur at the meeting between Andrew Meyer and University Police Department officers.

Meyer was Tasered and charged with a third-degree felony and a second-degree misdemeanor after officers said he resisted arrest with violence and disturbed the peace.

The State Attorney’s Office will decide whether to go forward with Meyer’s charges.

Machen said he expects fast investigation results.

He said he had seen the video but was not prepared to make any judgment about whether the officers’ response was appropriate.

“The protesters are concerned about the same things we are.”

Bernie Machen
UF president

Because Meyer used profanity during a question-and-answer session, his microphone was turned off, said Steven Blank, chairman of Accent, Student Government’s speakers bureau. The group hosted Kerry’s speech.

When police tried to pull Meyer from the microphone, he began to struggle. Six officers held him to the ground, while one Tasered him.

Machen said safety has been a heightened concern since the Virginia Tech tragedy, and he is still confident in UPD’s capabilities.

UPD is the “most professional and sensitive group of officers I have ever worked with,” he said.

He said the amount of phone calls and e-mails he’s received the past two days “reminds me of hiring a football coach.”

Machen said Meyer is allowed back on campus immediately.

Machen said Meyer is suspended from classes because the Florida Department of Law Enforcement would conduct a full investigation of the officers’ actions.

He said two officers involved, Eddie King and Nicole Mallo, would be immediately suspended with pay pending further investigations.

According to a UPD offense report, King gave the order to Taser Meyer. Mallo Tasered him in the left shoulder, according to both King’s and Mallo’s accounts.

A panel of faculty and students will review UF’s police protocols and suggest ways to improve. UPD will also conduct an internal investigation.

UF President Bernie Machen speaks to reporters at a news conference in Emerson Alumni Hall on Tuesday.

“The protesters are concerned about the same things we are,” Machen said.

UPD document outlines circumstances for Taser use

By KATIE GALLAGHER
Alligator Contributing Writer

Tasers may only be used in “specific circumstances,” UF President Bernie Machen said Tuesday at a news conference.

At the conference at Emerson Alumni Hall, a University Police Department document concerning the use of Tasers was presented.

According to the UPD document, the circumstances for using a Taser include trying to avoid an officer’s attempts to control a situation.

This can include people braking themselves, pushing or not allowing an officer to approach. A person does not have to strike or harm an officer to justify use of a Taser, according to the UPD paper.

The document, titled “Use of Force,” was last revised in March and also deals with other policies on violence.

The document classifies violence on a scale of one to six, with level one being intimidation body language and level six being attempts to kill or badly hurt an officer. Tasers are an accepted response to level four and above.

For instance, an unarmed small framed female juvenile may be displaying level five resistance but would probably only require level three responses by the average officer,” it reads.

All police officers who carry Tasers receive annual training.

Any time a person is Tasered, even if it’s accidental, the incident is subject to internal review.

If someone is Tasered, according to the UPD paper, paramedics will be called after that person is taken into custody.

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Meyer’s attorney will fight for dismissal of charges

ANDREW MEYER WAS CHARGED WITH A THIRD-DEGREE FELONY.

By KIM WILMATH
Alligator Writer
kwilmath@aligator.org

On Tuesday, Andrew Meyer rested. His attorney, Robert Griscti, said Meyer would fight for complete dismissal of Meyer’s charges.

During a speech hosted by Accent, Student Government’s speakers bureau, Meyer asked Sen. John Kerry questions about politics, Kerry’s involvement in a secret society during college and the 2004 presidential election.

After a few minutes, Meyer’s microphone was cut off because he used profanity, said Steven Blank, Accent chairman.

As Kerry attempted to answer Meyer’s questions, several University Police officers began to pull Meyer away from the microphone.

In an official statement, Kerry wrote that he asked police to allow him to answer Meyer’s questions and was doing so when Meyer was taken away.

“I regret enormously that a good, healthy discussion was interrupted,” Kerry wrote, adding that he believes he could have handled the situation himself.

“In 37 years of public appearances, through wars, protests and highly emotional events, I have never had a dialogue end this way.”

John Kerry
Massachusetts senator

Robert Griscti, Andrew Meyer’s attorney, speaks to members of the media Tuesday about Meyer’s reaction to his arrest. He said Meyer did not have an official statement and was resting but would cooperate with the investigation.

At his arraignment Tuesday morning, Meyer accepted his criminal charges and was allowed to leave on the condition that he would return for a criminal trial. The trial date has not been set.

After the arraignment, Griscti said he thought the Taser use was inappropriate. He said he didn’t think Meyer posed a threat to anyone at the speech, and there were enough officers to usher him outside without using force.

Amos Eshel, a UF computer science and math senior and friend of Meyer, sat quietly in the back of the courtroom.

Later that day, Eshel said he has known Meyer since middle school.

“He does like to speak his mind,” he said. He added that Meyer is not the type of person to start major trouble.

“This has been blown way out of proportion,” Eshel said. “He’s being made into a martyr.”

Andrew Meyer: The Basics

- He is a UF telecommunication senior
- He is from Fort Lauderdale
- His Web site is theandrewmeyer.com

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MOSELEY SPOKE AT A STUDENT SENATE MEETING.

By DEVIN CULCASLRE
Alligator Writer
culcaslre@alligator.org

Despite Monday's Tasering incident, Student Government's speakers bureau will continue to operate normally, a top official with the organization said Tuesday.

Steve Blank, Accent chairman, said he didn't think the incident warranted any major changes in Accent's security policy. "In 40 years, we've never had this sort of situation," Blank said. "We have been doing the same thing for a very long time, and we will continue to do it."

Andrew Meyer, a telecommunication senior, was arrested and Tasered by UPD officers during a question-and-answer session with Kerry, a Democrat who represents Massachusetts and a former presidential candidate. Accent hosted Kerry's personal reaction to the incident, only saying, "It was a wonderful speech on behalf of Senator Kerry."

"We make it clear that any profanity and vulgarity by anyone asking questions will result in a cutting off of the mic," Blank said.

Police are typically present when a prominent figure speaks, Blank said. But he declined to comment on whether he thought the use of a Taser was necessary.

"In 40 years, we've never had this sort of situation."

Steven Blank
Accent chairman

"The police are there with the general understanding that they are there to keep order," he said. "They acted independent of Accent."

But the UPD police report stated that Accent officials asked police to remove Meyer from the room. Blank also declined to offer his personal reaction to the incident, only saying, "It was a wonderful speech on behalf of Senator Kerry."

Students proceed to Emerson

PROTEST, from Page 1

Benjamin Dictor, a political science junior, approached L.T. Stacey Ettel, who handed him five pamphlets on how to file a complaint. When Dictor told the crowd, protesters bowed and chanted, "This is what incompetence looks like."

Then Steve Orlando, UF spokesman, came toward them. Dictor quieted the crowd so people could hear Orlando's message.

"Let the man speak!" he shouted. "We are bigger than them! We don't suppress freedom of speech!"

Orlando informed the crowd of investigations that would be performed, in addition to UPF President Bernie Machen's news conference in Emerson.

Students walked back to the Plaza of the Americas to wait until the conference.
Under Pressure

Editorial

UPD must update Taser-use policy

The UF administration is in trouble. It has the task of figuring out if using a Taser gun on UF student Andrew Meyer during Sen. John Kerry’s appearance Monday was justified. A document from the University Police Department would suggest its officers were well within their bounds to use a Taser on the disruptive student. But maybe UPD’s policies need a few changes. Thousands of UF students and thousands of people across the nation seem to think so. At the very least, the overwhelming opinion is that Meyer’s actions didn’t merit a Tasering, regardless of what the UPD handbook says.

If UPD’s policies need changes, the incident posted online, ranging from television-clarity to cell-phone-fuzziness, will have millions of people see what happened. Technology’s a bitch, man. Without Facebook, we can’t imagine students would have organized themselves quickly enough to hold a protest one short day after the now-infamous event happened.

We’re not saying Tasing a student wasn’t bad enough. Much of the world would have been outraged without video and photographs. But technology adds a new element to the equation. Instead of relying on news reports, which often sensationalize or omit some things, raw video footage brings the event away from the subjective and into the objective.

One online video is a small step for man, and technology is one giant leap for mankind.

Column

Police correct to use force on student

Andrew Meyer’s arrest on Monday has no doubt sparked debate about how much force officers can use. Some believe Tasing him was out of line; others think the punishment fit the crime. But before we pass judgment on anyone, consider this snippet from Florida law:

“A person is justified in using force, except deadly force, against another when and to the extent that the person reasonably believes that such conduct is necessary to defend himself or herself or another against the other’s imminent use of unlawful force.” -Title XLVI, 776.012.

Unless Sen. John Kerry came down from the podium and started throwing punches, Meyer had no other reason to fight anyone. However, because University Police Department officers believed he was becoming a threat to Kerry, they were justified in using their own force to restrain him.

The only exception to this rule is the use of deadly force; even then, the officers prefer saving lives to taking them, suicides included.

Monday’s event has implications beyond an arrest and a jail stay. UPD is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Ten years ago, when the department first received CALEA certification, it was one of only 14 university police departments to do so.

Yes, the officers in the orange-and-blue-trimmed cars are real officers. Because they are real officers, they are allowed to dump out your keg and give you a speeding ticket; they are also allowed to dump out your keg and give you a speeding ticket like officers with the Gainesville Police Department.

If you get in trouble, don’t say I didn’t warn you.

Thanks to Technology

We’d be lying if we said we weren’t overwhelmed with the response to Monday’s event. We’re overwhelmed with the work it’s generated for our newspaper, but mostly we’re overwhelmed by the community’s response.

On Monday, UF student Andrew Meyer was Tased at Sen. John Kerry’s town-hall forum after refusing to leave the auditorium quietly. On Tuesday, students staged protests and sit-ins. Rumors about riots swirled about the city. All social media networks covered the event. Letters poured into our inboxes. Administrators issued statements left and right, trying to cover their asses. And to think, none of this would have been possible without YouTube and Facebook.

Thanks to several videos of the incident posted online, ranging from television-clarity to cell-phone-fuzziness, millions of people have seen what happened. Technology’s a bitch, man. Without Facebook, we can’t imagine students would have organized themselves quickly enough to hold a protest one short day after the now-infamous event happened.

We’re not saying Tasing a student wasn’t bad enough. Much of the world would have been outraged without video and photographs. But technology adds a new element to the equation. Instead of relying on news reports, which often sensationalize or omit some things, raw video footage brings the event away from the subjective and into the objective.

One online video is a small step for man, and technology is one giant leap for mankind.

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

Reader response

Today’s question: Should UPD drop its charges against Andrew Meyer?

26% NO

74% YES

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org
Letters to the Editor

Defensiveless student didn’t need Taser

I am appalled at the aggressive tactics used by University Police Department of ficers to remove Andrew Meyer from the presentation by Sen. John Kerry. How does using profanity or asking why you are being arrested justify the use of a Taser gun on a defenseless college student?

Since the video is accessible online, students and university administrators should take the time to find out if such force was necessary and hold the officers accountable for their actions. Why were there so many officers in the first place?

It is a sad day in academia when students choose to voice their opinions without being censored or Tasered. How much further are we going to allow our individual rights to be trampled on?

Fernando Díaz
2LG

Meyer no match for UPD officers

UPD was most definitely justified in using a Taser on Meyer. If it hadn’t, he might have overpowered those police officers. Who knows what could have happened then—he might have asked Kerry another question.

But the cops, in true pawn-like, we’re just-following-orders fashion, were not responsible for the decision to censor Meyer’s speech. No, the blame for that lies squarely on Accent, which “cut off the microphone because Meyer used profanity,” said Accent chairman Steven Blank.

Accent deemed it necessary to protect a room full of adults from hearing the word “blowjob,” the uttering of which was not entirely inappropriate, and certainly not profane in the context of what he was saying. In 1969, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that free-speech rights extended to students in school. Accent, as an agency of Student Government, infringed on Meyer’s First Amendment rights when it silenced him and must be held accountable. Perhaps this issue should be taken to the SC Supreme Court.

Scott Bhorel
4LS

Accent to blame for Taser incident

Some people seem to be confused about Monday’s events surrounding Meyer, accusing the UPD of censoring Meyer’s free speech. This is not the case, so let’s give credit where credit is due.

Don’t get me wrong, the police were way out of line to arrest and Taser a lone, unarmed, defenseless college student? This is not the case, so let’s give credit where credit is due.

We should all try to get the whole story before demanding the officers lose their jobs.

But we should all try to get the whole story before demanding the officers lose their jobs.

Joe Kastke
4BC

Tasers painful, but not vicious weapons

A Taser is hardly “vicious weaponry” as Kyle Cox’s Tuesday column stated. The whole point of a nonlethal, safe weapon is to avoid bringing out the actual “vicious weaponry.”

Is being Tased a painful experience? Obviously, and that’s exactly the point. Tasers are an effective and efficient means of rendering an uncooperative subject cooperative.

Anyone who’s seen the video saw that perfect demonstration. The student involved had plenty of notice and the actions taken by the UPD officers were justified.

Anyone who refuses to follow instructions given by police officers, violently resists them and continues these actions after being warned deserves to be Tasered. Then he or she will comply and officers can do their jobs.

Ryan Döerlein
7BA

Student’s protest showed immaturity

The UF student’s arrest brought back memories of my years at Florida and students’ protests for civil rights. It seems this student was more interested in his 15 minutes of fame than in his message.

He seemed to live up to the lyrics of Buffalo Springfield’s “For What Its Worth” rather than Peter, Paul and Mary’s “The Great Mandala.” The student’s protest is genuine, but his protest was juvenile.

Robert Keyserling
Odesa, Mo.

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Robert Keyserling
Odesa, Mo.

Constitution Day ironic day for Taser

The irony of the Taser incident is that it took place on Sept. 17, the day the country celebrates Constitution Day. It is unfortunate both sides could not remain calm and work to a peaceful resolution. But that could be said about anything, including our own national government.

Rusi Patel

Meyer should have controlled himself

Reading all the comments people have made, whether online or in the paper, I think that people are somewhat misguided in their anger. What happened to Meyer was wrong, but what didn’t happen was even worse.

Everyone is clamoring that this is evidence we live in a police state or that we no longer have freedom of speech.

That’s not correct. If Meyer had been able to control and present himself like a more reasonable person, this wouldn’t have happened.

I know that he was probably riled up and has a strong belief in what he was saying, and that’s alright with me. But if he could have done it in a more reasonable tone, it would have been more effective.

The real shame is that people didn’t care enough to stop it. One woman yelled for the officers to stop, but no one else cared.

I am disgusted at how not one of those people who were there are now outraged that it happened. They’re yelling at UP President Bernie Machen to act. But what were they doing to stop it?

We don’t live in a police state, or somewhere where the First Amendment doesn’t exist. We live in a country where people are happy to protest and complain after the fact, when they know they are safe, sound and free from Taserings.

Ryan Döerlein
7BA

Meyer is new free-speech martyr

When I first saw the Andrew Meyer video, I was horrified that a conservative activist could act so foolish and immature. When it was revealed that he is actually a Kerry supporter, the whole ordeal made much more sense.

The police allowed Meyer’s combative resistance to carry on for a disproportionately long time before using nonlethal force. I do not suspect that anything negative will happen to the officers. They performed their duties appropriately and professionally.

The only unfortunate event that occurred here is that Meyer has now been cast into the national spotlight as a martyr to many, inspiring untold numbers of the unwashed masses to create social disturbances and chaos for their shot at celebrity.

Michael Bosworth
7EG

UF students must stand up for rights

The UF administration needs to Taser UPD after its recent display of excessive force, poor judgment and downright bullying of unarmed student Andrew Meyer. These “officers of the law” should be ashamed of themselves.

They abused their power and crushed the spirit of freedom of speech across this campus to come. UPD is simply on a power trip.

College is supposed to allow for healthy political discussions. Instead, this incident has cast a dark, disturbing shadow on UF. UPD administrators must take a stronger stance. They cannot allow for some thuggish headed officers to set the mood and atmosphere of the campus.

Students must stand up, as well. Favor free speech. Stand on the side of academia. Support Meyer until all charges are dropped, the police officers are relieved of duty, and UF issues an apology to Meyer and every Gator past and present.

The Gator Nation must be governed in a way that safely promotes freedom and security, rather than simply existing in a police state.

Steve Cameron
2LM

UPD not a ‘progressive’ agency

I just watched the video of Meyer being arrested on CNN, and I was horrified.

The actions of those officers are repugnant to me for many reasons, including free-speech rights and the fact that Meyer didn’t do anything that warranted that kind of reaction.

But what floored me most was the way your officers escalated their response so quickly.

What happened to asking Meyer to leave and escorting him out? I think it’s pathetic UPD had to resort to force.

On the UPD Web site, Chief Stump says her officers belong to a “progressive law enforcement agency.” I would say the UPD is the opposite, displaying Draconian-like force in a situation that could have been handled much differently.

It was just one student — was every other option tried? That may be a huge “what if” for UPD, because now the entire nation can see the lack of judgment displayed that day.

Andy DePew
Tucson, Ariz.

Meyer’s questions not irrelevant

Kyle Cox seems to believe he, above respected political scientists, historians and sociologists knows the perfect knowledge of those things that are acceptable to protest and those that are not.

I beseech Cox to use his next column to offer students a full list. I would like to keep it with me at all times, right next to my Bible and pamphlet on treating Taser wounds.

Cox theorizes, loosely and poorly, that issues are not of importance once they have “sat on the back burner too long.”

No one told Bobby Kennedy Jr., who wrote an extensive piece for Rolling Stone Magazine titled, “Was the 2004 Election Stolen?” He produced some very intriguing data to suggest one of our most basic rights had been violated.

Ballot integrity is such a pressing issue in this state that one of the first acts of Gov. Charlie Crist, a Republican, was to institute a new computer trained Florida’s voting process. I guess we should have taken Cox literally when he exclaimed, “Human rights be damned!”

For those who care about the validity of the UPD, as much as some, Meyer, Crist and Bobby Kennedy Jr., please take the time to become educated. Meanwhile, please refrain from labeling certain protests as overboard, embarrassing, obnoxious, inappropriate or a waste of time.

Michael Belle
7LS
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Jackson not discouraged by sub-par performance

By MIKE MCCALL
Alligator Staff Writer

If free safety Kyle Jackson emerges as a playmaker in the UF secondary this year, a late-night phone call may be the reason.

The senior missed a tackle on Tennessee receiver Lucas Taylor in the first quarter of Saturday's game, allowing the Volunteers to convert on third-and-12.

The play led to a Tennessee field goal that cut the Gators' lead to 7-3, and Jackson was pulled from the game in favor of freshman Major Wright.

Wright finished the game with six tackles — third-most on the team — while Jackson tallied none.

Jackson has been virtually invisible from the UF stat sheet this season. In three games he has managed just one tackle and no pass breakups.

Meanwhile, Wright is third on the team with 14 tackles and one breakup.

Jackson is quick to acknowledge his tackling problem as his biggest issue.

"I just need to make that extra step on a tackle," he said. "This week I'll be out there doing extra tackling and bringing that extra step. I've been playing football for too long and I know I've got it. It's just that extra step on tackles and that's what everyone wants to see, so I've got to bring it." Jackson's biggest weakness has been

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 15

Safety deserves one more chance

Kyle Jackson has gotten second, third and fourth chances — and maybe even more.

But the senior free safety deserves one final shot this weekend.

Jackson, a popular — and deserving — scapegoat for defensive letdowns against Alabama and South Carolina in Coach Urban Meyer's first season, was due to have a bounce-back senior season.

It was supposed to be one of those feel-good stories, a can't-miss freshman who lost his starting job as a sophomore and watched the national championship game largely from the bench as a junior.

The Ron Zook recruit would use those memories as motivation his senior year to end his tumultuous UF career on a high note.

If you have watched Jackson's play so far, you've probably noticed not much has changed.

He's still looking lost at times and missing tackles, opening the door for true freshman Major Wright to possibly become the second player to pass him up in the last three years.

Wright announced his arrival with a smack, slamming Chris Rainey to the ground in pre-season practice.

He was the first de-striped freshman.

He replaced Jackson in the starting defense on the fourth series of the season.

Against Tennessee, Jackson started and finished with as many tackles as Smokey the bluetick coonhound.

Wright recorded six tackles and a pass breakup.

That's five more stops and one more pass breakup than Jackson has on the entire season.

The question is not if, but when Wright

SEE NICK-EL, PAGE 15

Senior year starts strong for versatile Killingsworth

By PHIL KEGLER
Alligator Writer

The Gale Lernerand Athletic Center practice gym featured some light-hearted pickup action before practice Tuesday.

Elyse Cusack and Marcie Hampton took on Kisia Killingsworth and Christina Diaz, but a few stipulations made the impromptu play a tad more interesting.

The players switched their normal positions — Cusack and Diaz did the spiking while 6-footers Hampton and Killingsworth set — and only use of the left hand was allowed.

It only makes sense that Killingsworth, a self-proclaimed jokester, would be in on the action.

"I am the leader of goofiness," Killingsworth said. "I can try and be the leader on the court, but I'm more the person that goes up to Angie (McGinnis) and says random things on the court and

SEE VOLLEY, PAGE 15

ON TELEVISION
MLB: Tampa Bay at Los Angeles
Fox Sports Net, 3:30 p.m.
MLB: Florida at Atlanta
Fox Sports Net, 7:30 p.m.

TODAY IN UF SPORTS HISTORY
1987: Running back Emmitt Smith explodes for 224 yards in the third game of his career, against Alabama.
Smith would go on to earn SEC Freshman of the Year.

I DID NOT KNOW THAT
The UF women's golf team improved from 13th to fifth in rankings released by Golfweek on Tuesday after placing fifth in the Mason Rudolph Women's Championship in Nashville, Tenn., last weekend.

SCOREBOARD
MLB
Florida 3
Atlanta 4
MLB
Baltimore 0
Yankees 12
Thompson not likely to leave

By JENNA MARINA
Alligator Staff Writer
jmmarina@alligator.org

Contrary to reports circulating in southern Florida, wide receiver Deonte Thompson seems to be content in Gainesville. Gators coach Urban Meyer said Tuesday evening.

On Sunday, InsideTheU.com cited a source close to Thompson who said the freshman is not happy with his lack of playing time at UF and is considering a transfer to Miami.

"I talked to Deonte and he said he loves it (here)," Meyer said. "He's ready to go."

The former five-star recruit has not yet played a down in any of the past three games, but Meyer said the depth at the receiver position factors into Thompson's lack of time on the field.

The coach also said he's cautious about using up the freshman's eligibility too soon.

"I think he's going to be a great player," Meyer said. "I just don't want to waste a year, and that's a fine line."

PASS RUSH POSSIBILITY: After Saturday's game against Tennessee, Meyer is considering implementing defensive end Carlos Dunlap into the mix to help the Gators' pass rush. UF has totaled five sacks in three games, but four were against Western Kentucky, and the team has failed to record a quarterback hurry so far this season. Dunlap is a 6-foot-6, 240-pounder, so Meyer hopes to utilize the freshman's length during games to deflect passes.

QB SHOWDOWN: Come Saturday, the Gators may face an unfamiliar foe — a starting quarterback who has actually defeated them.

There are only three current quarterbacks in the nation who have started against the Gators and pulled out the win. Mississippi's Brent Schaeffer is one of them. Since Rebels' quarterback Seth Adams is questionable for Saturday's game, Schaeffer has the opportunity to step in and face UF for the first time since he helped defeat the Gators in 2004 at Tennessee's starting quarterback.

South Carolina's Blake Mitchell and Auburn's Brandon Cox are the other two quarterbacks who claim victories over UF.

FOOTBALL, from page 14

his counterpart's strength.

Wright was widely known for his hitting prowess in high school, and he has already shown it off in practice and games this season.

The freshman's aggressiveness has led to speculation of a change in the depth chart at free safety, but Meyer isn't ready to put Jackson on the sidelines.

"There's a role for Kyle Jackson, and there will continue to be," Meyer said.

Jackson said that Meyer's loyalty has already improved his mindset.

Meyer reassures safety with late-night phone call

"Once your confidence gets dropped like that in The Swamp, having the coach call you the next night to say he hasn't given up on you and he still loves you, it puts things back in perspective," Jackson said.

"Before I left the field (Monday), Coach pulled me back to the side and said that he watched the film of me missing the tackle. He said he sat up all night watching it, and it's just that extra step.

"He said I've got everything else: the reading ability and that knack for the ball. I know that. I feel myself out there and my angles and everything are good, it's just that tackling."

Middle blocker totals double-digit kills in previous 4 matches

VOLLEY, from page 14

...is the fact that Killingsworth hasn't played two consecutive seasons at the same position.

She played right-side hitter her freshman year, moved to middle blocker her sophomore year and switched to left-side hitter her junior year.

UF coach Mary Wise feels the move back to middle suits Killingsworth best.

"There's a comfort zone for Kaiya," Wise said. "It's what she does most easily."

The senior looks to have it down by the end of the season.

NICK-EL, from page 14

will fully supplant Jackson in the starting lineup.

For now, I ask to give Jackson an umpteenth chance to prove himself.

This weekend against Mississippi marks a brief respite before a rough Southeastern Conference stretch. After pounding the Rebels, UF has faced losable games against Auburn — though that matchup is becoming less and less of a concern at LSU, at Kentucky and in Jacksonville against Georgia.

Meyer could make a statement by starting Wright this week, but the big-hitting freshman has done just fine in his reserve role so far.

Wright has two or three more years to develop.

There is no need to rush him too quickly, especially against the worst team in the SEC.

He proved last week he can play against SEC teams.

That's what Jackson needs to show this week. Meyer could exhibit some faith in Jackson — which he has done admirably so far this year — and let his experienced senior play for his job one last time.

The fun and games are over after this week. If Wright is still outperforming Jackson, there is no excuse not to make the switch after Saturday.

Well, unless Auburn loses again. It seems so long ago when Jackson picked off two passes against South Carolina in 2004.

Writers actually described him as a playmaker. I wrote him off.

He has his mindset.

Wright was widely known for his hitting prowess in high school, and he has already shown it off in practice and games this season.

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This weekend against Mississippi marks a brief respite before a rough Southeastern Conference stretch. After pounding the Rebels, UF has faced losable games against Auburn — though that matchup is becoming less and less of a concern at LSU, at Kentucky and in Jacksonville against Georgia.

Meyer could make a statement by starting Wright this week, but the big-hitting freshman has done just fine in his reserve role so far.

Wright has two or three more years to develop.

There is no need to rush him too quickly, especially against the worst team in the SEC.

He proved last week he can play against SEC teams.
Instant Celebrity

Meyer no stranger to controversy

By KORI FREDERICK
Alligator Writer

Monday’s Tasering did not mark the first time Andrew Meyer has been surrounded by controversy.

On Sept. 11, he protested with a giant sign on a Burlington Plaza that claimed President Bush was responsible for the terrorist attacks of 2001.

On March 11, 2005, he wrote a column for the Alligator detailing his love of being confrontational.

“If absolutely love the thought that some nonsense I wrote irritated people enough for them to take time out of their day to let everyone know how much they disliked what I wrote,” the column said.

Monica Alvarez, a UF telecommunication alumna, was one person he irritated.

While Alvarez doesn’t know Meyer personally, she said she is not a fan of his writings. She thinks he tries to get people upset.

Alvarez defended Meyer’s right to question Sen. John Kerry, but she thinks he should have left when UPD asked him to.

“It’s unfortunate it came down to that,” she said. “But UPD didn’t know what his intentions were. They were just trying to protect Sen. Kerry and the crowd.”

Meyer’s friend, Ricky Cuellar, doesn’t think his buddy is too over the top.

Cuellar, an events management junior, thinks that Meyer, or The Andrew Meyer as he calls himself online, simply wanted to ask Kerry some tough questions.

“That’s just how he is,” Cuellar said. “He’s really into asking the difficult questions, and he loves conspiracies.”

Cuellar called UPD’s tactics “a little more ridiculous.”

“It made me think of when someone speaks out at an assembly in high school. They would get sent to the principal and get a referral. But he got tackled by six officers and Tasered.”

Ricky Cuellar
UF events management junior

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One Andrew Meyer didn’t get Tasered or arrested on Monday. He wasn’t even at Sen. John Kerry’s speech.

Because of the rain and the death of his cat on Sunday, he slept in.

This Meyer is a mechanical engineering junior at UF with the same name as the student Tasered and arrested at the University Auditorium.

The name confusion explains the calls to his family from NBC, the “well over 200” Facebook friend requests and the new default picture that reads, “I am not the guy who got Tasered. He has disappeared from facebook.”

While doing homework at a friend’s house, Meyer first received notice of the incident from his parents, who had just been phoned by NBC.

Meyer said his parents jokingly asked, “Hey Andrew, did you get Tasered today?”

His friends and family knew right away that he wasn’t the Andrew Meyer who was arrested.

“I’m the good son in the family,” Meyer said. “If it was my sister, they might have believed it for a second.”

News networks including CNN and FOX called his parents in Orlando, but Meyer did not receive any phone calls about the incident.

He did, however, receive about 10 e-mails from news outlets. Some knew there were two students with the same name and addressed the e-mails “to whom it may concern.”

To be “more efficient,” Meyer had a generic e-mail ready to respond to any media inquiries.

“I’m sure Andrew wants to get news out about him,” said Meyer. “So if they contacted me, I redirected them to him.”

The confusion was harder to evade on Facebook.

Friend requests began to appear at 3 a.m. Tuesday. They came in groups of 3 or 4 every hour, Meyer said.

The two Meyers have never met but have been Facebook friends since they discovered they had the same name three years ago.

He said he thought the other Meyer’s behavior was inappropriate but didn’t warrant a Tasers.

“It’s pretty bad what happened to him, but a lot of good will come from it too,” Meyer said. “Since he’s a journalism major, this will get him publicity since it actually got on the news.”