Collapse sends two to hospital

By RAVIKA RAMESHWAR
Alligator Staff Writer
rameshwar@alligator.org

Two people, including a pregnant woman, plummeted 15 feet on Thursday when the landing in front of their unit in Lyons Apartments gave way.

Both were transported to Shands at UF, where they are in stable condition, according to Carol Davis, Gainesville Fire Rescue spokeswoman.

Three other people were removed via a fire truck ladder from building 1810 because the broken landing made it hazardous for them to leave their apartments.

“There was a complaint about the railing on that staircase not less than one month ago,” said property manager Spring Staples.

The railing was fixed, however, the stairwell and the balcony above were not identified as a problem, according to Staples.

Building and fire inspector Jerry Coughlin said no one is allowed on the second floor of building 1810 until everything is replaced.

“Whether or not the other buildings are safe—that’s the question,” he said.

Resident Natasha Arbaczauskas said she has never felt safe in the Lyons. She can point out mold, water damage, wood rot and crumbling Formica.

In order to fix the mold issue, she was told she would need to sign a new lease.

She also said the leasing office took six months to fix a leaky faucet.

Staples said the building is routinely checked up on, and the last check was about a year ago.

Alligator welcomes prospective staffers

The Independent Florida Alligator will hold an open house today from 2 to 5 p.m. to meet students interested in reporting, copy editing, graphic design, cartooning, generating online content and more.

Section editors from the nation’s largest student-run newspaper will interview students from both UF and Santa Fe.

“A lot of people have the impression that we only employ journalism majors,” Editor in Chief Kristin Bjornsen said. “That’s not the case.”

Applicants are encouraged to bring their own story ideas, resumes and writing samples.

“Patience is important because so many people come,” Bjornsen said. “It’s not possible to have story ideas for every applicant, so if they come in with a few of their own, that’ll better their chances of being published.”

However, the Alligator is more than just a newspaper. The staff is also interested in students with multimedia experience.

“We’re looking for people who can come up with creative ideas for online content and think outside of the print edition,” Managing Editor / Online Jennifer Jenkins said.

The Alligator is located at 1105 W University Ave.

— RACHAEL PINO

Sportswriter Jeff Elze раствew@alligator.org

The Gators’ defense meets its match in a game of chess

Andy Zientarski, who was listed at 220 pounds, had nine tackles and two sacks this season.

“It’s a unique position,” coach Tim Dobbins said. “I think we’ll continue to use him there.”

Zientarski said he is “open to anything that’s going to help us win.”

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Law school goes virtual

By EMILY FUGGETTA
Alligator Staff Writer
efuggetta@gmail.com

Michelle Jacobs is only a few inches tall during third and fourth period Thursdays — unless you zoom in on her.

Jacobs, a professor in UF’s Levin College of Law, teaches Crime in the Virtual Context using Second Life, a computer simulation program that allows users to create computer versions of themselves and interact with each other in a virtual classroom.

Jacobs said she already had her own Second Life persona when she discovered student-created Gator Nation Island and was both hesitant and excited to become involved with it on an academic level.

“With any new technology you risk massive failure when you are an early adopter but the possible benefits were intriguing to me,” she said. “I’ll confess I was surprised to learn that people at UF were advanced enough to consider it.”

Gator Nation Island’s designer and architect, Joshua Javaheri, originally built the island for his senior project in UF’s digital arts and sciences program.

Javaheri said the toughest part of designing the virtual space was finding a balance between maintaining the appearance of UF’s Levin College of Law and the surrounding areas and making it easily recognizable by the students in the class.

He worked with UF’s Digital Worlds Institute and the law school to create the virtual campus, and Javaheri said he worked hard to meet both of their expectations.

“I worked on a plan that would suit both of their expectations,” he said.

SEE SECOND LIFE, PAGE 12
WHAT'S HAPPENING
Critical Mass
Ride begins at 5:30 p.m.
Plaza of the Americas
 Held on the last Friday of every month. Join cyclists for a ride through the streets of Gainesville to promote bicycle culture.

First Shabbat at Hillel
Today, 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10:30 a.m.
Located at Hillel
2020 W University Ave.
Hillel will celebrate the first Shabbat of the semester Friday with candle-lighting, three services (Orthodox, Conservative and Reform) and a free Kosher dinner. Events will continue Saturday at 10:30 a.m. with services.

Havdalah Service
Today, 7:45 p.m.
Plaza of the Americas
Hillel will end Shabbat with a Havdalah service. Saturday at 10:30 a.m. with dinner. Events will continue Saturday, 10:30 a.m. with services.

Auditions for the Hoggetowne Medieval Fair
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Hippodrome State Theatre
The Hoggetowne Medieval Fair is held in late January in Gainesville. For more information, e-mail hoggetowne-auditions@gmail.com.

Luau at Broward Pool
Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m.
Cool off from the hot Gainesville sun. Sponsored by Hillel and Jewish Student Union.

Florida Educator Association Meeting
College of Education Terrace Room
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Education majors interested in getting involved with political action, community service and attending professional development workshops are welcome to attend UF FEA’s first meeting of the semester. There will be free food and give-aways.

UF Society of Professional Journalists
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Weiner 3032
Learn how to become involved in SPIF’s national campus chapter of the year at its first meeting of the new semester. Master Lecturer Mike Foley will be speaking. Refreshments will also be served.

FACES Modeling Troupe Meeting
Pugh Hall
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Positions for fashion team, public relations staff and runway models are open.

Library Showcase
Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Library West
InfoCommons, Third floor
See what the UF and Alachua County libraries have to offer. Library technologies, services and resources will be featured. There will be demos, giveaways and free food.

UF American Solar Energy Society meeting
Thursday, 7 to 8 p.m.
Rinker 215
Interested in clean, green and sustainable energy? Learn more about the American Solar Energy Society’s UF chapter at utasos.org. Upcoming events include National Solar Tour, One Less Car and solar powered vehicle project.

MGC Showcase: Evolution
Friday, 6 to 10 p.m.
Reitz Grand Ballroom
Sponsored by WOW! and Gator Nights. Each organization from the Multicultural Greek Council will showcase their values, traditions and history through live performances. After the show, attendees can meet every fraternity and sorority in MGC and learn about recruitment.

Got an event?
Want to post it in this space? Send an e-mail to bkley@alligator.org with “What’s Happening” in the subject line. Please include a one- to two-sentence synopsis of the event.

The Alligator strives to be accurate and clear in its news reports and editorials. If you find an error, please call our newsroom at 352-376-4458 or send an e-mail to editor@alligator.org.

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FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, UF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF ARE CHOOSING NOT TO DRIVE THEMSELVES CRAZY WHILE GETTING AROUND GAINESVILLE.

Registration for the second annual One Less Car Challenge, which promotes saving the environment by finding alternatives to driving, began Monday and will last until Nov. 20.

Stephanie Sims, the implementation plan coordinator for the Office of Sustainability, said some of the alternatives the challenge highlights include cycling, public transportation from the Regional Transit System and Zipcar, a hybrid-car rental service.

Sims said this year the challenge is also using GreenRide, a carpool-coordinating software program, to give people the option of carpooling to and from campus. Students will be able to register for GreenRide through the Office of Sustainability’s Web site and find carpool partners in their area.

“I feel like it would just be good for people to try some different ways of getting to campus...” Andrea Grossman

She said the software also records each participant’s alternative commutes and keeps track of the points they earn throughout the challenge.

Teams and their members receive points for using alternative transportation and referring friends to the challenge, Sims said.

Anna Prizzia, the director of the Office of Sustainability, said she rides her bike to work each day to avoid searching for parking and to get fresh air.

“Being the director of the Office of Sustainability, I find it very important to walk the talk and lead by example,” she said.

Andrea Grossman, a junior environmental science major and intern at the office, said she also bikes to campus from her apartment.

To showcase these different forms of commuting, the challenge will host an Alternative Transportation Fair Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Reitz Union North Lawn.

60K Fla. residents anticipated to contract H1N1 virus

Students with flu symptoms asked to stay at home

By CAROLYN TILLO
Alligator Writer

For the second year in a row, UF students, faculty and staff are choosing not to drive themselves crazy while getting around Gainesville.

Registration for the second annual One Less Car Challenge, which promotes saving the environment by finding alternatives to driving, began Monday and will last until Nov. 20.

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60K Fla. residents anticipated to contract H1N1 virus

Students with flu symptoms asked to stay at home

By MEREDITH RUTLAND
Alligator Contributing Writer

This fall, students may have more to prepare for than just exams.

It is expected that about 60,000 Floridians will contract the swine flu this flu season, according to Dr. Phillip Barkley, director of student health at UF.

“Right now, all the cases of influenza in the U.S. are H1N1,” he said.

Swine flu, also known as the H1N1 virus, has become the sole influenza virus this flu season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the U.S. has had more than one million cases, Barkley said, adding many students are able to take care of themselves.

Barkley said UF students who had cases of H1N1 were treated over the summer, adding many students are able to take care of themselves.

Barkley said the Student Health Care Center anticipates more cases this year and that vaccines will be available on campus. However, he was unable to specify an exact release date.

According to UF’s environmental health and safety Web site, symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, diarrhea and vomiting.

Treatment is as simple as bed rest, fluids and Tylenol, according to the site.

Barkley said students are highly advised not to go to class if they are sick.

“Don’t affect other people,” Barkley said. “Do others a favor.”

For those students who do find themselves with flu-like symptoms, a treatment page can be found on the campus environmental health and safety Web site at www.ehs.ufl.edu/h1n1/.
UF ranks high on green list

By HILARY SHEINBAUM
Alligator Contributing Writer

Gainesville is not the least bit chilly, but UF just got a little cooler.

Sierra Club Magazine recently ranked the school at No. 15 on its third annual Cool School list, earning UF an A for its eco-friendly efforts.

“The club bases its school rankings on eight factors, including energy, efficiency, transportation and waste,” said UF spokesman Steve Orlando, adding that environmental programs, including Zipcar and buying locally grown produce for dining halls, are campus-wide efforts.

“Every new generation places the environment as a higher priority,” he said. “You really can’t lose with that.”

The University of Colorado at Boulder, which ranked No. 1, earned 10 out of 10 points for transportation. UF received eight points for transportation, according to the list.

“I think UF is an environmentally friendly school because of all the seemingly small programs that are implemented right on campus,” said UF communicative disorders junior Kristen Davis. “I always see trash cans around campus encouraging students to ‘Put it in the can, Gator fan.’"

“I love that taking the bus and leaving my car at home saves me gas money, parking hassles and is good for the environment,” she added.

Other high-ranking schools include Harvard University and Yale University, which placed 11th and 14th, respectively.

According to the Web site, if two or more schools tie for a spot, the club considers other factors such as consistency across categories.

While the University of Central Florida stands at the No. 57 spot with a C-plus, other Florida schools such as Florida State University and the University of Miami did not make the cut.

The Sierra Club is the oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the U.S., according to its Web site. The group works to protect communities, wild places and the planet.

# See Freshman Gator Scared of the Swamp

# See Sophomore Gator After Freshman 15

# See Junior Gator After Three Years at UF

# See Senior Gator Ready to Take on the World!

Through it all, you’ve been there done that seen it and even read about it in alligator

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The top 15 most eco-friendly universities

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Source: Sierra magazine’s 2009 Cool Schools survey of the Top 100 most eco-friendly schools
UF to hire up to 100 new faculty

By THOMAS STEWART
Alligator Staff Writer
tstewart@alligator.org

Just over a week after UF sent notices to many of the 60 employees being laid off, UF President Bernie Machen announced an initiative to use $10 million in stimulus money to hire up to 100 new faculty this year.

Machen made the announcement Thursday during his State of the University speech to the Faculty Senate.

“The areas that are gonna be hiring new faculty are high-demand, based upon student interest,” Machen said after his speech. “The areas that have layoffs are areas where the colleges decided they don’t have high demand.”

“We have a responsibility to you to allowing you (students) to take classes so you can graduate,” he said.

But John Biro, president of UF’s chapter of the United Faculty of Florida, the faculty union, said the plan is unfair to faculty being laid off.

“It’s absolutely unconscionable to have a policy where you’re trading in proven and loyal and successful faculty,” he said. “It’s like trading in your used car.”

Biro said the plan is proof that Machen is using budget cuts to “move new faculty are high-demand, based upon student interest,” Machen said. “It’s like trading in your used car.”

Biro said the plan is proof that Machen is using budget cuts to change the face of the university without properly vetting it with the university community.

“It’s a few people’s ideas of what should happen without bringing everyone else on board,” he said.

He said faculty morale is lower than he’s ever seen it and that moves like this discourage the best faculty from seeking jobs at UF.

“Who do you want to come here?” Biro asked.

Of the 60 employees being laid off this year, 11 are faculty. And since last August, UF has lost a net of 81 faculty members, a decline of 2.1 percent. In the last two years, Machen said, UF has lost 5 percent of its faculty.

Machen said the new faculty will be hired this fiscal year and will start in July, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

For the first year, their salaries will be paid by stimulus money, and in the second year, differential tuition money will pick up their salaries on a permanent basis.

The number of faculty hired will depend on the mix of junior and senior faculty, Machen said, but could mean up to 100 new hires.

He said it will also help reduce the faculty-student ratio, which is just more than 20-to-1.

“We’re still the lowest in the state of Florida,” he said, “but if you look at our peers around the country, our faculty-student ratio is too stretched out.”

UF’s plan to reduce enrollment by 4,000 will also help that goal. UF’s enrollment is now at 49,600, compared to 52,112 last fall.

Machen said really good schools have a faculty-student ratio of 15-to-1, but said UF will never be able to reach that.

Reacting to the recent news that UCF’s enrollment topped UF’s at the start of classes, Machen said, “Good for them.”

“We’re not concerned with size,” he said, “we’re concerned with quality.”

Machen also announced that research awards were up 2 percent this year to $574 million, after falling from $635 million to $562 million last year.

By comparison, UF took in $339 million in research awards in 1999-2000.

Machen reported that student parking decal sales were down 9 percent. This decrease comes as UF is creating new parking spaces, with a 927-space parking garage on the corner of Gale Lemerand Drive and Mowry Road that opened Monday.

After Machen’s speech, the Senate was briefed on the swine flu pandemic.

“Right now, the severity is a two on a five-point scale,” said Phil Barkley, director of UF’s Student Health Care Center. Barkley asked faculty to take it easy on students who get sick because UF has requested that students with flu-like symptoms stay home and isolate themselves until 24 hours after their fevers have disappeared.

“Please be flexible with students this fall when it comes to making up work,” Barkley said.

The banks bore primary responsibility for the losses.

“Identity theft is a serious crime that affects millions of Americans each year,” Bernanke said in a statement. “Our family was but one of 500 separate instances traced to one crime ring.”

Prosecutors wrote that Gray hired pickpockets, then made counterfeit IDs for the participants. The coconspirators conducted the transactions, and Gray took a cut of the proceeds.

At least one check from the Bernanke account for $900 was deposited Aug. 13, 2008, into the account of another identity theft victim at a Bank of America branch in suburban Maryland.

According to a D.C. police report, it contained her Social Security number. But someone started cashing checks on their bank account days after the purse was stolen from her chair. The thefts helped fuel an ongoing investigation into a sophisticated ring.

Loses totaled more than $2.1 million and involved at least 10 financial institutions, a court document said. Clyde Austin Gray Jr. of Waldorf, Md., a suspected ringleader in the scheme, pleaded guilty on July 22 in an Alexandria, Va., federal court.

Bank of America spokesman Scott Silvestri said the bank would not immediately comment.
Editorial

If anything like us, fall is one big wake-up call (and if you’re even more like us, you totally missed your 7 a.m. wake-up call on Monday).

Basically, we have to be reacquainted with two things: responsibility and something called “the morning.” Morning is no longer a time for old people, children, Regis and Kelly. It’s now a time for you to get up-and-at-em, too. So head over to Deja Brew with a copy of The New York Times and try pretend you buy into Ben Franklin’s famous proverb.

Oh, wait.

Well, as a consolation for a week of mornings lacking in caffeine and a Wednesday without Maureen Dowd, we offer this week’s Wake-up Call Back edition of...

Darts & Laurels

Hey, beggars can’t be choosers.

We’re sorry to have sent you into a bout of post-traumatic stress over the conspicuous absence of the Greasy Lady on campus, but fret no more. Student Government is in the process of reinstating The New York Times readership program and should have the paper back in those blue boxes on Monday. For listening to the outpouring of distraught paperless students and working to help get our news on once more, the Department of Darts & Laurels would like to send an if-only-you-could-make-those-boxes-possible-to-open-we’d-be-golden LAUREL to SG Treasurer Maryam Laguna. Some of us only know what day of the week it is based on whose column is running in the Times, so your efforts will not go unnoticed.

Something else that didn’t go unnoticed, apparently, is the fight that broke out in front of Club Decadence on Wednesday morning. As two women broke into a straight-up brawl, a crowd of about 50 people gathered to watch. Sometimes fights are cool — if you’ve ever seen someone confront an always-late RTS bus driver, you know this. Fights involving violence are not, however. For standing around and watching like gladiatorial gawkers, we would like to send a DART to the crew that did nothing to stop the fight. While we’re at it, we might as well throw a half- LAUREL to the two women for taking it outside (because God knows that if people were throwing ‘bows inside that shoebox, nine people would have been killed). Unless, of course, the place is bigger on the inside than on the outside a la “House of Leaves.” Who are we kidding? If Club Decadence ever posed any sort of metaphysical question to anyone, we would die of the shock.

To anyone who has ever bemoaned the fact that American Apparel manages to sell $20 T-shirts that consist of approximately two ounces of fabric, you’re about to have some more fodder for your proverbial cannon. Currently being sold in AA stores is something called Bag-O-Scraps, which is exactly what it sounds like. For a nominal fee of 88, you, too, can own scraps from the floor of an actual American Apparel factory. For pushing their we-sell-you-$3-shorts-at-a-9,000-percent-price-markup credo to a whole new level, we’d like to throw a not-even-the-late-Billy-Mays-could-sell-us-this-one DART at American Apparel. We could possibly relent on ‘em, considering they are throwing in a bagage, you probably don’t have the requisite brain power to pretend you buy into Ben Franklin’s famous proverb.

We've created a monster, but a ban on texting while driving isn’t the answer.

My beef with an outright ban on drive-texting is not with the ban itself; simply put, it’s a stellar idea. It will remove a dangerous condition from our roadways and certainly make them safer and more pleasant for everyone. My problem lies solely with the backhanded, sneaky and overbearing way in which the federal government is forcing its hand.

Our founding fathers realized that the Constitution could possibly cover all future situations, so they added the 10th Amendment. This amendment states that any power not specifically given to the federal government is left to each state’s government to decide individually. This elegant system has been abused, re-interpreted and mangled beyond all recognition. The federal government forgets the 10th Amendment with amazing frequency.

No example is as easy to understand as the “federal” drinking age. Contrary to popular belief, there is no federally mandated drinking age. Under the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984, the government has the power to withhold 10 percent of a state’s highway funds should it fail to set its legal drinking age at 21. Technically, states still have a choice, but from a practical standpoint they don’t.

We’re standing by idly as our federal government mires itself in yet another constitutionally questionable situation where a state’s rights are ignored. The texting ban is currently framed exactly the same way as the drinking age. States failing to pass a ban on texting within a time limit would face a 25 percent reduction in annual federal highway funds.

When laws are structured to intentionally use tax dollars as leverage, the states lose their individuality. The federal government has taken 50 hostages, and with budgets teeter-tottering on the brink, they know state governments will give in to demands to avoid complete meltdowns. A ban on texting within a time limit would face a 25 percent reduction in annual federal highway funds.

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

Reader response

Today’s question: Would you buy a bag full of clothing scraps?

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

**Alligator headline misleading**

“Machen: No more cuts.” On the Web site version, I found a less misleading headline for the story: “Machen predicts end to budget cuts.” The “end” of budget cuts will happen after we have “more” budget cuts. I liked the positive quotes from Machen: “economy seems to be stabilized,” “gonna be a positive year after a ‘negative year.’” All preceded by he’s “ready to predict there will be no more cuts to UF’s budget next spring.”

The skeptic is prepared. The story goes on to say the president intends to hire more faculty through stimulus money (applause) so as to curb the “brain drain.” I thought the brain drain was happening due to low salaries but there seems to be no mention on how to raise salaries to deflect the “brain drain.” The hope is to have money for new hires, but no money for higher salaries? I read nothing on the non-continuation of contracts in Academic Technology. So we can look forward to more “cuts” in November. Machen is quoted as saying, “What we’re anxious to do is get back into hiring mode.” If UF wants to hire more people, it better “cut” them so you can make room to hire more. Maybe a more appropriate Alligator headline could have been: “Machen predicts end to budget cuts [by next spring after a painful winter].”

Jorge Gonzales
Gainesville resident

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**New York Times program to be re-instated**

After hearing many people voice their concerns over the possible funding decreases from our Collegiate Readership Program, I want to take this opportunity to set the record straight on a few things and hopefully assuage some of your fears.

Over the last few years, The New York Times has suffered from a steady decline of readership that has affected their bottom line. In turn, their rates have gone up as they try to survive this dark period for print media. Thus the positive quotes from Machen: “economy seems to be stabilized,” “gonna be a positive year after a ‘negative year.’” All preceded by he’s “ready to predict there will be no more cuts to UF’s budget next spring.”

The skepticism is prepared. The story goes on to say the president intends to hire more faculty through stimulus money (applause) so as to curb the “brain drain.” I thought the brain drain was happening due to low salaries but there seems to be no mention on how to raise salaries to deflect the “brain drain.” I thought the non-continuation of contracts in Academic Technology. So we can look forward to more “cuts” in November. Machen is quoted as saying, “What we’re anxious to do is get back into hiring mode.” If UF wants to hire more people, it better “cut” them so you can make room to hire more. Maybe a more appropriate Alligator headline could have been: “Machen predicts end to budget cuts [by next spring after a painful winter].”

Jorge Gonzales
Gainesville resident

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**Machen’s stance on cans hypocritical**

What a surprise. President Machen doesn’t like Budweiser marketing orange and blue beer cans in Gainesville.

His argument is that these school-colored cans will promote binge drinking and underage drinking and that they infringe on UF’s trademark of its school colors. But a quick search on the UF Bookstore Web site shows a UF-licensed inventory that includes Gator wine-stoppers, Gator plunger glasses, Gator “collector” glasses (coincidently the same size as a standard shot glass), Gator bottle cozies, Gator mixing glasses and Gator wine glasses.

So how is it that orange and blue beer cans being sold off campus are more of a threat to our students than an array of alcohol-related items being peddled in the heart of campus at the official bookstore? It seems to me like UF is OK with promoting drinking... as long as they stand to profit from it.

Alison Hightower
Gainesville resident

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**Student Government steeped in mystery**

Why is it that our Student Government does not allow students to know what is going on? During my time at UF, I have seen a Student Government steeped in mystery and one that rarely interacts with the Student Body. I have seen SG officials ignore students, break the law and show an overall discontent for the issues facing us. As the lawsuit filed by Frank Bracco demonstrates, SG does not want us to know what is going on. SG has not only denied individuals the right to know what happens at public meetings, but it even goes so far as to not allow students to have the voting records of our elected officials. The corruption and secrecy in SG needs to end, and we deserve to know where our $14 million is going.

Gary Benedix
Gainesville resident

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**Bill concentrates too much power in 5G**

At Tuesday night’s meeting of the Student Senate, the Unite Party passed a bill called the Executive Order Establishment Act, a bill that represents a serious threat to the democratic process within Student Government.

Myself and several other Orange and Blue Party senators brought up legitimate points against the bill, but the majority party passed it anyway.

First, the bill is illegal, as it attempts to force Senate to give up powers to the executive branch, which is illegal under the Student Body Constitution.

Second, it’s just bad policy. We live in a nation that supports separation of powers in government, and we should not allow Student Body President Jordan Johnson to circumvent the Senate’s authority to establish agencies and set their level of funding.

And this year, the executive branch’s budget proposal is structured so that President Johnson has almost unilateral power over funding, with a “slush fund” that he can give to agencies as he sees fit. Coincidence? I don’t think so.

All this bill does is concentrate even more power in an executive branch that constantly oversteps its bounds. The bill’s author said these provisions were legal at other universities like UCF and USF, but UCF and USF aren’t riddled with SG corruption. After all, both of these schools have online voting for SG elections, so I ask the Unite Party, why don’t we copy them in that manner as well?

The answer is clear: because online voting won’t help the Unite Party. Irresponsibly increasing President Johnson’s power does.

Aidan Gillespy
District D Senator, Orange & Blue Party
New cart service offers free rides around Gainesville

By KATHRYN STOLARZ
Alligator Contributing Writer

Zipping around on doorless six-seat carts may soon become the most convenient and environmentally friendly way to move — and it’s free.

ZIPcarts, a new Gainesville transportation service, launched Sept. 5, shuttles people within the perimeter of 16th Avenue, the southernmost edge of UF’s campus, Southeast Seventh Street and 34th Street.

Since the beginning of the testing phase on Aug. 17, about 1,000 students have gotten rides on two green and yellow carts, according to Jordan Long, 21, Santa Fe College business management junior and one of three company founders.

When five rolled-up girls flagged down a cart Sunday evening to catch a ride, their reaction was immediate excitement.

“This is going to be one of my favorites,” Sophomore Kelsey Bryant said.

“Give me the number. I’m putting it in my phone right now,” she said.

“Oh my god. This is awesome,” according to Long, their reaction is common.

“So far, everyone loves it,” he said. “They’re just amazed that there is a free service that is so convenient.”

Sophomore Kelsey Bryant waved down a ZIPcart driving by in her neighborhood at about 11:30 p.m. Monday and got a ride to a Sigma Chi house party. She called the service heaven-sent.

She usually walks when she goes out at night, she said.

“I don’t understand the (RTS) routes real well at night,” she said. “SNAP sucks. SNAP takes forever. You get scared waiting.”

The university has also responded positively to the idea of the service.

“Anything that’s going to provide alternative transportation to someone under the influence of alcohol is a great idea,” said University Police spokesman Jeff Holcomb.

But safety and convenience aren’t ZIPcarts’ only perks — the ZIP stands for Zero-emission In-Town People movers. The electric carts, which are street legal on roads up to 35 mph, run on electricity, so they don’t emit greenhouse gases. They cost about $1 per day or between 1 and 2 cents per mile to run, according to co-founder Majid Vasigh, a UF alumnus and criminal lawyer.

The company will transport a group of county commissioners from around the state from the Gainesville Hampton Inn to a conference at Santa Fe College around 8 a.m. today to showcase ZIPcarts as an example of the county’s sustainability efforts.

The idea for the company was sparked last year when former Tampa neighbors Ryan Clarke, co-founder, and Vasigh were riding on Hop Tampa, downtown Tampa’s free, eco-friendly shuttle service.

“We joked about how cool it would be to start one of these things and do it right and do it better,” Vasigh said.

This July, they decided to make it happen.

While vacationing in Cancun, Mexico, Clarke discussed the idea with Long, Clarke’s friend since high school, and they agreed to start the company. Vasigh lapped on board, and the three devoted their summer nights and weekends to developing and planning.

“We were really serious about it,” Clarke said.

“Where better to do it than in a college town where the kids are getting drunk and walking or driving home, and where there are lots of muggings and [robberies]?”

He said the goal of ZIPcarts is trifold — to keep drunk drivers off the roads, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and profit by selling advertisements, which will appear on the sides of the carts and water bottles given to customers.

The three presented their idea to Gainesville’s Public Safety and Towing Subcommittee later that month.

“The consensus was a great thumbs up,” Vasigh said.

Clarke, Vasigh and Long fronted more than $75,000 in startup costs, including six carts — the two currently operating and four more on order — license plates, T-shirts, business cards and taxi lights for the roofs, but Long said the venture is more than worth the trouble and cost.

Rain skirts, plastic sheets that drape over the sides of the carts, should be delivered within a couple of weeks so the rides can be given rain or shine, Long said.

The company is also looking into ordering 11-seat carts to transport large groups.

The company is also creating an iPhone application and a mobile Web site package for the Blackberry. They will also install GPS locators on each cart sometime within the next month to serve those who can’t explain where they are beyond an address, Vasigh said.

Long plans to have at least six to eight carts running in Gainesville by the end of the year. After establishing a firm base in Gainesville, he hopes to expand the company to colleges across Florida and Georgia and eventually franchise the company throughout the nation.

“I want to do all kinds of stuff,” Long said. “This is just a stepping stone.”

Call 877-ZIP-1352 to schedule a ride. For more information and to find out about advertising opportunities, visit the Web site at www.FreeZIPcarts.com.

Ryan Clarke, a creator of ZIPcarts, poses next to one his carts while on the job Thursday night. ZIPcarts is a free, green service that takes passengers all over inner Gainesville and runs until the bars close.

Matt Tripp / Alligator Staff

NATIONAL

By JESSICA CHAPMAN
Alligator Writer

Long lines, pricey books and empty shelves are often the norm for students during the first week of classes.

But now some students might get paid to go through the hassle.

College students and families who do not receive financial aid, scholarships or grants might qualify for the American Opportunity Tax Credit, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed in February by the U.S. Congress.

The credit will give students up to $2,500 for their out-of-pocket expenses, focusing on textbooks.

The tax credit is only available through the 2009 and 2010 tax years and is an extension of the Hope Credit, which was designed to help offset education costs, according to a release by the National Association of College Stores, which partnered with the IRS to raise awareness.

Although the Hope Credit was customized for students who come from lower income families, the American Opportunity Tax Credit will include a broader range of taxpayers.

“It really is a great opportunity to fill in some holes [from out-of-pocket expenses],” said Richard Hershman, director of government relations for the National Association of College Stores. “It’s a win for students and families. There’s no reason not to get this.”

Students or parents can claim the credit when filing for taxes in the spring.

All course materials apply for the credit as long as documentation, such as transcripts, a letter from the bookstore and receipts, is provided.

“In the meantime, just keep track of your expenses,” Hershman said.

The first $2,000 in out-of-pocket expenses goes toward the tax credit. Any amount more than $2,000 will have 25 percent of the remaining expenses paid back up to $2,500, according to the American Opportunity Tax Credit Web site.

The tax credit is also 40 percent refundable, providing up to a $1,000 refund for qualifying taxpayers.

Hershman said the tax credit was designed to ease some of the stress felt by college students during the economic recession.

UF freshman Danielle Agostino said the tax credit will provide relief for her parents, and she plans to take advantage of the opportunity.

“If it’s really hard right now,” she said, adding she didn’t qualify for financial aid. “A large number of students get financial aid, but a large number don’t, too.” However, economics professor Mark Rush said UF students will not be affected as much as community colleges and other universities throughout Florida.

Rush explained that because many UF families have higher incomes and most students qualify for the Bright Futures Scholarship, they won’t need or qualify for the credit.

“It won’t have a huge impact on UF,” Rush said. “There will be some students [at UF who really need it, but] community colleges may be a big beneficiary.”

More information and examples on the American Opportunity Tax Credit can be found at www.textbookaid.org/Default.aspx.

How To Get Money For Your Books:

* The American Opportunity Tax Credit is offering up to $2,500 to students for out-of-pocket expenses.

* To be eligible, students must claim the credit when they or their parents file taxes in the spring.

* While filling out tax forms, students or their families must complete Form 8863, attached to any 1040 or 1040A form.

* Students must keep receipts, transcripts and the list of textbooks and course materials.

* The documents must be sent off when filing the claim.

For more information visit textbookaid.org.
Israel gets Nazi camp blueprints

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — Sketched on yellowing parchment, the 29 blueprints presented to Israel's prime minister Thursday lay out the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz in chilling detail, with gas chambers, crematoria, detouring facilities and watch towers drawn to scale.

"There are those who deny that the Holocaust happened," Benjamin Netanyahu said as he accepted the documents as a gift to Israel's Holocaust memorial, where they will go on display next year.

"Let them come to Jerusalem and look at these plans, these plans for the factory of death."

Stamped with the Nazi abbreviation for concentration camp "K.L.,” Auschwitz was one of the largest facilities on display. Its compound in Hyannis Port, along the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, past the John F. Kennedy Federal Building and by the JFK stop on the city's subway system.

Finally they came to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, where he body lay in repose. As many as 12,000 people waited in line to file past his closed casket and mark the end of a national political chapter that was equal parts triumph and tragedy.

For many, it was hard to untangle Kennedy’s larger-than-life role as statesman from his role as neighbor and local celebrity, whether he was taking a turn conducting the Boston Pops or throwing out the first pitch for the Red Sox.

“It was Teddy's home team,” said Tiffany Frison, 24, a young photographer who said people had been stopping near his house to leave flowers since Kennedy died late Tuesday.

Virginia Cain, 54, walked two miles from her summer home in Centerville so she could watch the procession and witness history.

“I can remember where I was when President Kennedy died, and I’ll remember where I was when the senator left Hyannis Port,” she said.

A bouquet of white and yellow lilies lay on the lawn of David Nyland's vacation rental near the Kennedy home, where a U.S. flag flew at half-staff in Kennedy’s memory.

“The Kennedys and Hyannis, the Cape, they just kind of go hand in hand,” said Nylan, 38, who said people had been stopping near his house to leave flowers since Kennedy died late Tuesday.

On Main Street in downtown Hyannis, flags, flowers and personal notes lay at the base of a flagpole outside the John F. Kennedy Museum, where about two dozen people gathered.

Someone had placed an old Kennedy campaign sign with a new inscription: “God bless Ted, the last was first,” referring to his ascension to political greatness after his two older brothers were assassinated.

NATIONAL

More than 12K pay respects to Kennedy

‘Robocalls’ to be restricted by FTC

FTC CHAIRMAN JON LEIBOWITZ

Violations to face $16K fine per call.

Americans tired of having their dinners interrupted by phone calls touting car warranties or vacation packages will soon get some relief.

The Federal Trade Commission said Thursday it is banning types of prerecorded telemarketing solicitations, known as robocalls. Currently, consumers must join a do-not-call list to avoid them.

“American consumers have made it crystal clear that few things annoy them more than the billions of commercial telemarketing robocalls they receive every year,” said FTC chairman Jon Leibowitz. Violators will face penalties of up to $16,000 per call.

Don’t expect phone solicitations to disappear completely, though.

Calls not selling goods and services will be exempt, such as those that provide information like flight cancellations and delivery notices and those from debt collectors.

Other calls not covered include those from charities that contact consumers directly, banks, insurers, phone companies, surveys and certain health care messages such as prescription notifications.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama praised for Katrina efforts

Many areas remain broken

WASHINGT0N — As a presidential candidate, Barack Obama pledged to right the wrongs he said bogged down efforts to rebuild the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Seven months into the job, he’s earning high praise from some unlikely places.

Gov. Bobby Jindal, R-La., says Obama’s team has brought a more practical and flexible approach.

“Calls not selling goods and services will be exempt, such as those that provide information like flight cancellations and delivery notices and those from debt collectors.”

“Yet too long ago, Jindal said in a telephone interview, Louisiana governors didn’t have “very many positive things” to say about the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

But Jindal said he had a lot of respect for the current FEMA chief, Craig Fugate, and his team.

“Craig Fugate, and his team.

There is a sense of momentum and a desire to get things done,” the governor said.

Added O’Dell: “I think the results are self-evident.”

The retired Marine general served what he calls a frustrating stint as Bush’s recovery coordinator last year.

“I still waiting for Washington to show leadership.”

In many areas, such as long-term coastal rehabilitation and rebuilding levees, it’s too early to determine whether Obama will live up to the many promises he made.

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Located at 1105 W. University Ave., two blocks east of UF campus, across the street from the Bank of America.
PLACERVILLE, Calif. — A woman who was snatched from a bus stop as an 11-year-old child in 1991 turned up Thursday after being held for the past 18 years in isolation in a backyard compound by a convicted sex offender who fathered two children with her, police said.

The details about her time in captivity emerged after Jaycee Lee Dugard surfaced at a police station in Northern California, nearly two decades after she vanished outside her home.

Police said Phillip Garrido, 58, held her the entire time as a virtual slave, sheltered from the outside world in tents, sheds and outbuildings in his backyard in suburban Antioch.

“None of the children have ever been to school, they’ve never been to a doctor,” Eldorado County Undersheriff Fred Kollar said. “They were kept in complete isolation in this compound, if you will.”

There was electricity from electrical cords, rudimentary outhouse, rudimentary shower, “as if you were camping,” he said.

Prison officials said Garrido admitted the kidnapping after meeting with his parole officer. He brought Dugard and the two children, ages 11 and 15, to the meeting.

Garrido and his wife Nancy Garrido, 54, were arrested for investigation of kidnapping and conspiracy on Wednesday, police said.

Phillip Garrido is also being held for investigation of rape by force, lewd and lascivious acts with a minor and sexual penetration, said Jimmie Lee, a spokesman for the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Department.

California corrections officials said they called in Garrido for questioning Wednesday after receiving a report that he was seen with two small children at the University of California, Berkeley.

“A house in the city of Antioch was cordoned off with police tape as it was searched by FBI agents and the Eldorado County Sheriff’s Department,” the department said in a statement. “It was further revealed by Garrido that she was Jaycee Lee Dugard, and that the children were hers.”

Pardee said Garrido was paroled in August 1988.

Dugard was in good health when she came into a San Francisco Bay area station. She was reunited Thursday with her mother, who was overjoyed to learn the ordeal was over and the daughter she feared dead was actually alive and well.

Dugard’s stepfather, the last person to see her in 1991 and a longtime suspect in the case, said he was overwhelmed after doing everything he could to help find her.

“It broke my marriage up. I’ve gone through hell, I mean I’m a suspect up until yesterday,” Carl Probyn, 60, told The Associated Press at his home in Orange, Calif.

California corrections officials said they called in Garrido for questioning Wednesday after receiving a report that he was seen with two small children at the University of California, Berkeley.

“The diligent questioning and follow-up by the parolee’s agent of record led to Garrido revealing his kidnapping of the adult female,” the department said in a statement.

“Phillip Garrido was sentenced to 50 years in prison and served nearly 11 years in a federal prison for a federal kidnapping conviction, said Suzanne Pardee, a spokeswoman for Nevada state prisons.

He also served seven months in a Nevada prison for a conviction of rape of force or fear.

If you need something, they would be the first I would call on,” Boyer said.
Virtual class links students with international experts without travel fees

SECOND LIFE, from page 1

It’s not just you (the student) and a computer screen. You are still interacting with other human beings in real time and benefiting from the intellectual exchange that is the hallmark [of classroom learning], she said. You are in an actual class with other students, she said, and learning in Gator Nation Island classroom offers the ability to connect the students with experts around the world without the cost of booking fees and plane tickets.

Although the interface is made as user-friendly as possible, Jacobs said the learning curve could make it a challenge for some. The beauty of the environment is that they are experiencing what they are studying, she said. It’s no longer hypothetical, dry discussion but a lived experience.

Aside from the virtual face-to-virtual face interaction, Jacobs said learning in Gator Nation Island classroom offers the ability to connect the students with experts around the world without the cost of booking fees and plane tickets.

Now, an expert in Europe can simply log in and be right in the class with my students, she said. It’s wonderful.

An avatar of Michelle Jacobs, Crime in the Virtual Context professor in the Levin College of Law, stands in a virtual mock courtroom on Second Life’s Gator Nation Island. The class is the first at UF to be taught in a virtual classroom.

Police search for robbery suspect

UF RESEARCH
UF creates new grape variety

By CAROLYN TILLO
Alligator Writer

UF scientists have just released a tasty creation. They debuted a new variety of grape this summer that they had been growing, propagating and testing for about 16 years, according to Dennis Gray, one of the developers.

Gray, a professor and developmental biologist with UF’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, said the variety, named the Southern Jewel by a Florida wine maker, is adapted to grow in Florida and the Southeast U.S. because it can withstand the humidity and resist diseases in the environment.

However, unlike most muscadine grapes, which produce clusters of four to six grapes, the Southern Jewel variety produces clusters of 12 to 16 grapes, he said. It has an extremely fruity flavor, and the berries are quite large, sometimes the diameter of a quarter.

Jacob Paulk, the largest grower of muscadine grapes in the U.S., is growing the Southern Jewels at his farm in Wray, Ga. He said he hopes the plants will help the muscadine grape market, which is limited to the Southeast, to grow.

Paulk said the market is limited because any temperature under 10 degrees Fahrenheit would kill muscadines. People in the Southeast are familiar with them because the native muscadine grapes were grown in this region, but the grapes are not as well known in the Midwest or Northeast.

New, good tasting varieties will help us sell, Paulk said.

However, the plants are still young and not yet ready for picking. When they are ready, he hopes the new variety can be picked in bunches and packed in the field to save some labor in the factory.

I’m looking forward to seeing it and packing it, Paulk said.

By KATHERINE BEIN
Alligator Writer

Gainesville Police are still searching for a man who was involved in an attempted armed robbery of a family early Thursday morning.

His accomplice, Joe Meadows Jr., 20, was found nearby and was identified by the family as one of the attackers.

Armed with handguns and duct tape, the two men entered the home through an unlocked sliding glass door at about 12:20 a.m., a GPD arrest report stated.

When they got inside, the men found a 16-year-old boy sleeping on the couch and attempted to tie him up. The boy’s mother, father and two younger brothers heard the noise and went downstairs.

According to the report, the men threatened the family with guns but left when the mother ran outside to call for help.

With the help of GPD police dog Redd, officers found Meadows hiding on the back porch of a nearby apartment, the report stated.

After interviewing the family, officer Jon Rappa wrote in the report that the shaken-up 9-year-old boy tugged on the officer’s pant leg, crying and said, “This has never happened before.”

Meadows was charged with four counts of aggravated assault, one count of aggravated battery and five counts of armed burglary.
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by Linda Thistle

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009 ■ ALLIGATOR 19
Meyer: Best depth we’ve had on O-line

THE GATORS GO EIGHT-DEEP WITH VERSATILE LINEMEN.

By KYLE MAISTRI
Alligator Staff Writer
kmaistri@alligator.org

When football and versatility are in the same sentence, 300-pound linemen aren’t usually what come to mind.

UF coach Urban Meyer has had the luxury of leaving the offensive line in flux during fall practice because he has multiple projected starters who can play more than one position on the line.

One of those players is junior Carl Johnson, who said it is important to have flexibility on the line in the event of an injury.

“If it’s a very tight game — let’s use Ole Miss last year — you don’t want to have a specialist go down and you need a specialist to put back in,” Johnson said. “The way coach (Steve) Addazio teaches us, he teaches offensive linemen to be versatile.”

Meyer said versatility hasn’t been something the Gators have had since he’s been here.

The only two starters who are locked into place are Mike Pouncey and Marcus Gilbert, who are holding down the right guard and right tackle positions, respectively.

Other than those two spots, Meyer said he would go with sophomore Matt Patchan at left tackle, Johnson at left guard and Maurkice Pouncey at center if the season started tomorrow.

Johnson and Maurkice Pouncey, who can slide back and forth between left guard and center if need be, were always expected to make the starting rotation, but one scenario saw Johnson moving to tackle and Pouncey moving to guard to make room for redshirt freshman Sam Robey at center.

“Having the ability to move Carl Johnson gives you flexibility,” Meyer said.

For now, Patchan has done enough to win over the coaches by proving he could add the weight needed to start at the college level.

Building up was no easy task, as Patchan is known for being a SEE O-LINE, PAGE 22

Meyer changes hazing culture

N ext time you’re on your knees in a dark frat house getting beaten with a sack of doorknobs, try calling Urban Meyer for help.

He doesn’t stand for hazing.

Meyer spoke last week about how difficult it was to change the culture of hazing freshmen when he arrived at Florida, a comment that provoked a backlash from former coach Ron Zook.

The Zooker’s feelings notwithstanding, he left a bit of a mess behind in this department, and Meyer had to clean it up.

He had to put freshmen in a separate locker room in his first year to keep the team from self-destructing.

“We had some fights and stuff because they treated the freshmen like they weren’t people,” Meyer said. “Don’t walk through here, we’ll kick your tail or shave your eyebrows.” It took us a while to break that great culture we had here.”

Meyer set aside time for testimonials after practices, where players — young and old — stand in front of the team and talk about their families and personal problems.

“They open their hearts to you, and once they do that, they’re officially part of the family,” he said.

The second part of joining the family is SEE MIKE, PAGE 22

Gators bond over summer

The Florida volleyball players had a lot to learn and little time to put it all together before their 2008 season began — from how drills were run to what certain terminology meant — even each other’s names.

Far from the nametag-wearing group that went through training camp last fall, 14 of the team’s 15 players were in Gainesville for at least part of the summer this year, playing pick-up games together and working out under the supervision of Matt DeLancey, the assistant strength and conditioning coach for UF Olympic sports.

The only player who wasn’t at UF throughout the summer was junior setter Brynja Rodgers, who was finishing up classes at New Mexico State before transferring to Florida. Everyone else — even the three new freshmen — chose to attend classes and train during the summer semester, the most players to do so during coach Mary Wise’s 19 years at UF.

With the players a year older and more accustomed to sharing the court, the opening match of the season is something to be excited about — not nervous. Unlike last year, Florida’s season-opening tournament, which begins with a 7 p.m. match-up with UNLV tonight and concludes with a 7 p.m. match Saturday against Colorado, won’t have to be part of the feeling-out process.

“We’ve been planning for this season since way back in January, when we started individual sessions,” Wise said. “That’s the beauty of it — we could actually be productive because we had players to work with.

SEE VOLLEYBALL, PAGE 22
MIKE, from page 21

having the black stripe removed from the freshmen’s helmets, an honor bestowed on athletes who display the kind of work ethic, focus and grasp of the playbook that Meyer is looking for.

What do you think fosters more team cohesion, working to earn respect in practice and sharing personal problems or shaving someone’s eyebrows?

It’s not talked about much, but the level of respect among teammates that Meyer pushes is just as big a part of his successful formula as emphasizing special teams or speed.

Meyer has always been a proponent of letting the best players play, regardless of age, and making sure the freshmen are treated like human beings is a necessary step on the way.

It’s especially important now, as a talented group of freshmen has a chance to learn from a team that could go down as one of the best ever. And Meyer knows he needs a few newbies to step up and produce this season.

Receiver David Nelson, who said he felt “pushed aside” as a freshman in 2005, has watched the whole transition unfold.

“Now, the freshmen come in and we embrace them as one of ours,” Nelson said. “As soon as they get that stripe off their helmet, they’re a part of this family and what we have here. We do a great job of knowing that. In the past, freshmen have come in and had substantial roles on offense, defense and special teams. We know they mean a lot to us, and there will be a special freshman this year to contribute to this team.”

Throughout two-a-days, all of the freshmen I interviewed had nothing but good things to say about how the veterans have treated them. Their experiences seem to be in pretty stark contrast to those of Nelson and his classmates, showing just how much of an improvement Meyer has made.

Shortly after Meyer spoke last week, Zook issued a statement saying he has never condoned or even been accused of condoning hazing, a pretty necessary move considering the possible implications on recruiting.

Zook gets blamed for too much around here. He left the program in pretty good shape, but this is one area he has no defense in. It’s pretty black-and-white.

When Zook left, freshmen were getting hazed, and whether or not he told them to do it isn’t the issue. It happened on his watch, and Meyer deserves praise for actively turning it around.

Summer workouts increase familiarity before season starts

VOLLEYBALL, from page 21

This team, 14 of them here this summer, made that learning curve even faster.”

Wise admitted recently she was a little nervous before the 2008 season, a rare feeling for a coach who now has 18 straight Southeastern Conference championships to her name.

Each player made the choice to stay the summer and train at UF individually, but the result of their decisions will be seen through the team’s performance, as the inexperience and unfamiliarity that worried Wise before last season should be a thing of the past.

“We feel like we’re a step ahead already, that we don’t have to use these first couple matches as practice, that we’re ready to go and ready to compete from the first match,” senior libero Elyse Cue said.

The higher level of familiarity allowed the Gators to bypass the preseason formalities that slowed them down last year and will help improve the Gators’ communication on the court, but sophomore outside hitter Kristy Jaeckel said it also allows them to play more aggressively and confidently.

“It helps us on the court because when you have that trust in your teammates, you know that they’re going to have your back,” Jaeckel said. “With passing, you have to know your responsibilities and you have to trust that the other person is going to do theirs too. If you have doubt in your teammates, you might try to do too much.”

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Marsh hurts ankle, held out of practice

By MIKE DiFERDINANDO
Alligator Staff Writer
mdiferdinando@alligator.org

Defensive tackle Lawrence Marsh missed practice Thursday with a sprained ankle.
UF coach Urban Meyer said he expects Marsh to return to practice Monday.
Marsh started 13 games for the Gators last season, racking up 28 tackles and three sacks.

TRATTOU AT TIGHT END: It looks like Meyer is going to be taking a page out of his friend Bill Belichick’s playbook.
The coach revealed Thursday that defensive end Justin Trattou could see time at tight end this season in goal-line situations.
Meyer said that he plans to use Trattou, who has been practicing with the first team offense in goal-line situations, the same way Belichick used Mike Vrabel.
Vrabel, a linebacker now with the Kansas City Chiefs, caught 10 passes, all for touchdowns, including one each in Super Bowl XXX-VIII and Super Bowl XXXIX while in New England.
Meyer said freshman Desmond Parks will likely redshirt this season. Other than starter Aaron Hernandez, Parks was the only tight end with the potential to see playing time.

BRANTLEY TO SEE TIME: Sophomore quarterback John Brantley could be logging some steady playing time this fall for the Gators.
Meyer said he hopes to use Brantley in game situations this season and not just in mop-up duty.
“I don’t want to make any promises because that always comes back to haunt you, but he’s earned playing time at Florida. We’re anxious to get him in the game,” Meyer said. “He’s earned it. It’s not charity work. How much? That remains to be seen, but he’ll play.”
Brantley threw for 235 yards he’d put the ball in the hands of senior receiver Riley Cooper.
“I say that because he’s done it before,” Meyer said.
Cooper’s 5-yard touchdown catch with 2:50 left against Alabama in last year’s Southeastern Conference Championship Game helped the Gators hold off the Crimson Tide and earned them a trip to the BCS National Championship Game.
By TYLER JETT  
Alligator Writer  
tjett@alligator.org

On the surface, the No. 7 UF soccer team looks like an experienced, senior-heavy squad. In Friday’s season-opening win against Miami, the Gators (1-0-0) started seven fourth-year players, and the game’s lone goal came when seniors Tricia Townsend and Ashlee Elliott connected on a pass that Elliott headed in.

But the roster is brimming with youth. Freshmen and sophomores comprise 75 percent of the team, and five newcomers saw action last week.

One reason for the Gators’ lopsided roster is a 2007 signing class that consisted of four players. When UF takes on Florida International (1-0-0) tonight at 7, defender Nicky Kit will be the only remaining Gator from that class.

Against Miami, coach Becky Burleigh started two freshmen, midfielder Erika Tymrak and defender Kathryn Williamson. While they both got their first college start in Coral Gables, the paths they took to get there are much different.

Williamson redshirted last year after unsuccessfully rehabbing her torn ACL. She injured her knee making an awkward cut during a Thanksgiving club tournament. “My knee went one way and my body went the other,” she said. Williamson said she pushed herself too hard during rehab trying to prepare for her first season at UF, eventually forcing her to have a second surgery last August. She was reduced to a cheerleader last year but said everyone was so enthusiastic on the sidelines that she grew into her role. That is not to say she was content, though.

“Through the worst of times I was there,” she said. “And through the best of times I was there.” Williamson said she pushed herself too hard during rehab trying to prepare for her first season at UF, eventually forcing her to have a second surgery last August. She was reduced to a cheerleader last year but said everyone was so enthusiastic on the sidelines that she grew into her role. That is not to say she was content, though.

“I wanted to be out there so bad,” she said.

Burleigh announces UF’s starting lineup on Thursdays so the unit can jell before the weekend matches. Many fringe players, Williamson included, nervously await the announcement. When she finally heard her name called, Williamson tried not to get too excited.

“I still was hesitant because I didn’t know,” she said. “People could change (the lineup) at the last minute.”

The same month Williamson suffered her tough injury, Tymrak played right midfield for the U.S. National team at the 2008 FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup. Tymrak, a 2009 Parade All-American, played in three of six matches and recorded assists in two wins. Practices under U.S. coach Kazbek Tambi helped prepare her for college soccer. “(Tambi) always had us play with guys, so we were used to playing quicker,” Tymrak said. “And college is quicker and faster than club soccer.”

But Tymrak needed the veterans to teach her how to play in UF’s formations, specifically when to drop back on defense and when to attack. “I play in the (midfield) and Angela Napolitano plays in there with me, so she would help me. And then Lauren Hyde and Ashlee (Elliott) would help me defensively, pulling me back,” she said. “Basically everyone on the field would give me clues to help me out.”