ON CAMPUS

Stood-up group protests at union

By JOEY FLECHAS
Alligator Writer

The members of the Student/Farmworker Alliance, said she questions whether Aramark wants to meet with students.

“It makes me wonder if it’s just a tactic of avoidance,” she said.

Holding signs with slogans like “Aramark vampires—workers’ lives are not a food source,” they marched to the Gator Dining Services office in the basement of the Reitz Union and spoke to Melanie Poling, UF operations analyst for Aramark. She apologized and asked to come to the rescheduled meeting.

“I think we’re after the same thing,” she said.

Moments after the group had dispersed, University Police Department officers arrived because they received a call about a disturbance in the Reitz Union.

Officer J.A. Savona said, according to Florida law, protesters were not supposed to be inside the building or even on the colonnade.

Student/Farmworker Alliance, said the gathering was originally planned as a meeting between the alliance and Aramark representatives in the Reitz Union Amphitheatre, but the representatives cited an emergency and canceled, asking to reschedule for Tuesday at 2 p.m.

UF environmental science senior Krissy Abdullah, a member of the Student/Farmworker Alliance, said she questions whether Aramark wants to meet with students.

“It makes me wonder if it’s just a tactic of avoidance,” she said.

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Former GPD officer on trial for abuse of infant daughter

THE BABY SUFFERED INTERNAL BLEEDING, FRACTURED RIBS AND RUPTURED ORGANS.

By MINCH MINCHIN
Alligator Writer

A trial continued Wednesday for a former Gainesville police officer charged with the neglect and abuse of his 2-month-old daughter in January 2007.

Herbert Priester, 39, allegedly squeezed her, causing internal bleeding, fractured ribs and ruptured organs, said Chief Assistant State Attorney Jeannie Singer.

According to testimony from Priester’s wife, Tabitha Priester, 25, the infant was found lying naked and covered with scratches and bruises in the couple’s home in southwest Gainesville shortly after her husband returned home from work.

The defense said the wounds were caused by the Priester’s family dog, Bandit. The infant was released from the hospital after 10 days and is now healthy.

The state charged Herbert Priester with abuse and neglect.

The pediatric radiologist at Shands who handled the case, Jonathan Williams, said during the trial that such damage would be “highly unlikely unless it was a very large dog.”

In her testimony, Tabitha Priester defended her husband and dog, blaming herself.

Priester once worked for the Florida Department of Children and Families, she said.

“It’s not the dog’s fault,” she said. “It’s my fault for not securing the dog.”

Testimony will resume today at 9 a.m. at the Alachua County Criminal Justice Center.

Man allegedly steals ambulance with patient inside

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Authorities say a drunken man stole an ambulance from a Wisconsin ski area with the patient and paramedics still inside.

The Dane County Sheriff’s Department says emergency responders were treating a patient in the back of the ambulance at the Tyrol Basin Ski and Snowboard Area in Mount Horeb on Monday night. They say a 24-year-old Illinois man got into the vehicle and drove it around the parking lot.

The sheriff’s department says deputies arrested the man. But it is unclear how he was stopped.

Fitch-Rona Medical Service Deputy Chief Dale Dow says the ambulance’s emergency brake was on and paramedics were still in the back when the man got inside.

He says he doesn’t know what happened after that.

No other details were immediately available.

Local merchants are concerned smaller wallets will mean fewer bouquets again this Valentine’s Day.

This year, the country’s total holiday spending is expected to reach $14.1 billion, which is low in comparison to the $17 billion spent in 2008, according to the National Retail Federation.

Americans spent about $14.7 billion on gifts in 2009, according to the organization.

The federation predicts couples will spend about $63.44 on nontraditional Valentine’s gifts, compared to $67.22 last year. The average person will spend $103 on Valentine’s Day merchandise like candy and flowers, similar to last year’s $102.50.

Local florists are already preparing for another decrease in sales.

Barbara Crevasse, owner of Crevasse’s Florist, said total sales have slowed in the last two years, and the trend toward cheaper arrangements is increasing.

She said people are still sending flowers to loved ones; they’re just smaller.

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NYC terrier mugged

Man walks into Wal-Mart, Alligator while she bought milk. She heard a supermarket for two minutes her 10-year-old Westie, outside her mild-mannered terrier. Donna doggie coat right off the back of lyn woman said a mugger stole a say they do not know whether valued more than $22,000. Police was arrested not long after that.

Baraboo man accused of using stun gun on ‘sinner’

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Baraboo, Wis. man was ac-
cused of repeatedly shocking a male dance instructor with a stun gun, claiming the instruc-
tor was a “sinner” who “defiles marriages.” A Dane Coun-
ty prosecutor said the suspect, 59, hastily arranged a dance les-
sion and he was going to scare the instructor and tell him to leave the women alone.

The Wisconsin State Journal said the instructor told police the suspect poisoned for private dance

The criminal complaint said the man told a detective his church does not condone touching while danc-
ing and he was going to scare the instructor and tell him to leave the women alone.

The State Journal said the instructor told police the suspect poisoned for private dance

lessons, and when he opened the door to his home, he began to shock him repeatedly in the neck

with the stun gun.

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www.AllianceWeightLoss.com

The Alligator is not officially associated with the University of Florida.
Art therapy helps patients

By CINDY TAVERAS
Alligator Contributing Writer

His head shakes in unison with his trembling hands as he moves his marker across a white paper, leaving behind traces of blue ink.

Chip Colley, 54, is a self-taught artist. He’s also one of about one million Americans with Parkinson’s disease, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“At Art for Life, a free program offered every Wednesday for people with movement disorders and their caregivers, he is not restrained by his disorder.”

“I think it’s odd I can hardly write my name,” he said. “But I can draw a straight line.”

Parkinson’s disease is a chronic movement disorder that causes slow, involuntary tremors, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Katherine Castle, an Art for Life volunteer who also has Parkinson’s disease, said she doesn’t want to be defined by her disorder.

“I don’t want to be the artist with Parkinson’s disease — I just want to be the artist” she said. “Parkinson’s is part of me, but it’s not all of me.”

Some of the activities at Art for Life include drawing, sketching, painting and creating origami.

Jill Sonke, assistant director for Shands Arts in Medicine, said the program is an expressive and social outlet for those with the disorder.

“It’s a disease that can be managed well but does require support,” Sonke said. “It’s stressful.”

Colley, who couldn’t draw before his disorder, wants people to know that living with a movement disorder doesn’t have to be negative.

“There can be a blessing in there somewhere. It’s helped me cope with it,” he said.

Art for Life is offered every Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Criser Cancer Resource Center.

The Adventures of FUN & Fitness

A section of the Alligator dedicated to giving students tips on healthy living and exercise!

Place your ad in the Fun and Fitness section, and change your business from a zero... ...to a 10!

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MUSEUM NIGHTS
Close the day...open your mind

Journey Through Africa
at the Harn Museum of Art

Yoruba people, Nigeria. Own, Altarpiece (oju’ po) Early 20th century, wood, gift of Rod McGalliard

To help the survivors of Haiti, the Harn will be collecting supplies for Gators United for Haiti during Museum Nights. Visit the Harn’s Web site at harn.ufl.edu for a list of supplies needed.

TONIGHT
February 11, 6-9 pm

Choral performances by the Pazeni South Africa Choir Dance and musical performances by Agbedidi Scavenger hunt featuring works by African artists Adinkra stamping activity Free food provided by Reggae Shack Folk tales with Baba Ono

At the Florida Museum of Natural History view Quilting Natural Florida II, and students with a Gator 1 get in free to the Butterfly Rainforest, 5-6 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Museum Nights is an ongoing program made possible by the generous support of University of Florida Student Government and the Honors Program. The Harn gratefully acknowledges the additional program funding on February 11 by the Center for African Studies.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Forum promotes unity

By LYN KRAMER
Alligator Contributing Writer

Jhenny Saint-Surin, an anthropology and political science junior and a member of the African Student Union, said she hopes the forum will be a learning experience for African-Americans.

Faye Harrison, an anthropology and African-American studies professor, and Kole Odutola, an African-American studies professor, spoke about the sense of disconnection blacks feel in the U.S. because of the stereotypical labels constantly stamped upon them.

“Race is not something that exists biologically,” said Harrison. “It’s a material term manufactured by human beings.”
Representatives from the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action hoped to trigger student involvement in their campaign to promote gun rights when they visited UF Wednesday night. Speaking before a crowd of about 60 people at the Florida Gym, two grassroots coordinators from the gun advocacy group came as part of the NRA University program, which attempts to educate college students about their rights to bear arms.

“We’re entering an era of very, very close elections,” said Seth Waugh, one of the coordinators. “Don’t just make a point, make a difference.”

The coordinators addressed misconceptions about the impact of guns on society by arguing against a correlation between gun ownership and crime.

“We don’t care if you’re Republican, Democrat, Green Party or Libertarian, as long as you’re with us, we support you,” said Kristiana Cupp, a coordinator.

Johnathan Lott, chairman of the UF College Republicans, considered the event a success.

“We want people to know their rights,” he said. “When people go to the ballot box in August, they’ll vote for the people who who will protect their Second Amendment rights as opposed to those candidates who will take them away.”

British double-decker bus to make stop in Gainesville

It will go on a 10-month tour around the US

By CAROLINE LEWIS
Alligator Contributing Writer

A 1966 double-decker bus from London will be stopping in Gainesville tonight to kick off a 10-month tour of the U.S.

Nick Elliott and Darren Cunningham, both 25, traveled here from England to document and experience local culture in American cities.

“We have no idea what we’re in for, but we want to get to know as many people as possible,” said Elliott, co-founder of the tour, dubbed Routemaster66.

Elliott and his friend Darren Cunningham, both 25, plan to stay in Gainesville until Friday before driving to New Orleans to celebrate Mardi Gras.

They want to meet people and let them enjoy the bus while experiencing the city, Elliott said. “You provide the people, and we’ll provide the ride,” he said.

The cost of buying and remodeling the bus was about $23,500, Cunningham said. He and Elliott could not estimate the total cost of the trip.

The trip will be paid for by the group’s savings and project partners, including The Thornsett Group, a property developer.

For more information about the bus, visit www.routemaster66.com.
ZipCarts to charge $3
By TIFFANY SUTTON
Alligator Contributing Writer

ZipCarts, a nightly shuttle service in Gainesville, and a formerly free ride, is now charging $3 per person. "We have to charge because of our insurance with the company. The insurance increased, and in order to pay for it we need to generate more revenue," said Jordan Long, one of the owners and cart operators.

Long said the main problem is that the company can’t anchor down large advertisements, so the ZipCarts are now more like a taxi service. "We’re really concerned with keeping the streets safe. We want to keep drunk kids off the street late at night and keep the roads safe," Long said. "We want to be there when people need a safe ride home.”

But students can still get a free ride for now. ZipCarts teamed up with the UF Census Bureau to offer free rides around UF every Friday in February from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

“We want to keep drunk kids off the street late at night and keep the roads safe.”

Jordan Long
co-owner and cart operator

For Ashley Sammons, a UF senior, the eco-friendliness of the service is the best part. Charging ZipCarts costs 50 cents, and they do not need any gas to operate. Once fully charged, they can go 40 miles before needing to recharge. "It’s a safe and convenient mode of transportation and cheaper than a taxi,” Sammons said. "I love how eco-friendly the ZipCarts are. It’s great.”

Parties debate campus issues
By ELIZABETH BEHRMAN
Alligator Writer

Student Government elections may be about two weeks away, but the debate between the Unite Party and the Student Alliance party is already beginning.

The parties’ candidates for Student Body president, vice president and treasurer discussed their opinions about the Reitz Union fee, perks for SG officials, reform in the SG cabinet and campus food prices at Wednesday’s debate hosted by the Freshman Leadership Council.

All six candidates outlined their plans for the future of the university.

Ben Cavatara, Student Alliance party candidate for Student Body president, said the Student Alliance party would like to make SG open to all students by making the budget more transparent and implementing an online voting system. "Our vision is one where every student gets a voice, where we open the gates to everyone interested in helping," Cavatara said.

Rafael Yaniz, the Student Alliance party’s candidate for treasurer, said that, if elected, the party’s candidates would donate their salaries to the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program, which funds scholarships for first-generation college students.

Ashton Charles, the Unite Party candidate for Student Body president said the salaries are necessary because SG positions leave no spare time for another job. "It’s something that’s in place that will allow any student of any economic background to do this job,” Charles said.

Charles said the goal of the Unite Party candidates is to continue making sure students are well-represented by the most experienced leaders on campus.

“We have a really amazing platform coming forward, and we’ll continue to advocate on the behalf of the students,” Charles said.

Andrew Hecht, director of special events for the Freshman Leadership Council, said he expected more students to be in the audience for the sixth annual debate.

“The reason you put on an event like this is to change the minds of students and make sure they are informed," Hecht said.
Editorial

All hugs out
Crist-Obama hug not that big of a deal

Hugs don’t mean much to us. The Editorial Board has embraced old acquaintances—we’d rather not see, weird relatives we’d rather not hear and ugly babies we’d rather not smell. Sometimes, a hug is just a social maneuver designed to keep the peace or appease the other party.

Marco Rubio doesn’t seem to understand this concept, so, as the Republican Senate primary draws nearer, he’s holding a rally to remind voters how heinous the Obama-Crist hug was. To emphasize the point, Rubio’s speaking at the same spot the offense occurred.

A year ago, Gov. Crist hugged Obama in Fort Myers to show support for the stimulus bill the president was pushing. As we remember, Obama still had that new president smell lingering around him. He was riding a wave of popular support at the time, and most politicians would have been happy to associate with him.

However, feelings change and hope is turning into despair and anger for much of the nation. So, as self-serving politicians have done for centuries, Crist dashed to a more popular opinion, leaving himself open to accusations of changing his stance on various issues.

Politicians change their minds just as everyday people do, although with a keener eye for strategy. The Board would usually shy away from defending Charlie, but Rubio needs to get over his aversion to PDAs and start focusing on the true issues in the Senate race. When the run up to an election reminds us of tweens gossiping about who kissed whom, we tend to roll our eyes. Rubio should hope other voters don’t do the same.

Put a sock in it

This week, the Editorial Board is taking a page out of Bill Maher’s book and issuing a “New Rule” of its own. Celebrities and politicians are no longer allowed to speak in public.

Yes, we realize this may cause a bit of trouble when it comes to interviewing the campaign trail, but this epidemic of foot-in-mouth syndrome cropping up in public figures is getting out of control.

John Mayer apologized Wednesday for the latest in a series of eye-rolling, gross-inducing word choices with “scandal” written all over them. In an interview with Playboy, Mayer joked about being widely accepted by the black community, using the N-word. Granted, we understood what he meant and the meaning was in no way racist, but everyone—except Mayer, clearly—knows the word is off limits.

But he’s not the only one (See: Dog the Bounty Hunter, Don Imus, Michael Richards, Mel Gibson, Paris Hilton). Every time we turn around, someone with a household name—lately Rush Limbaugh, Rahm Emanuel and Barack Obama—is formally apologizing to the Special Olympics CEO Tim Shriver and getting Sarah Palin’s panties in a twist.

To be fair though, the public could stand to take it down a notch. We get the glass house thing. After all, it’s not as though we haven’t had the occasional case of verbal diarrhea ourselves; we at the Alligator seem to have a gift for offending people.

All we ask is that next time someone in the public eye decides to use an inflammatory word or phrase, they consider just for a moment the implications. In retrospect (Mayer, Emanuel, Obama, Limbaugh, etc.), sometimes it’s best just to shut up.

Opinions

Iran covering up ‘Lost’ set duplicate

The announcement by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei of an Iranian surprise that will “punch the rest of the world and leave them ‘stunned’” was met with an exaggerated yawn this week from a Western media enervated by vague threats from heavily bearded men.

The cat-and-mouse game Iran has been playing with its super-double-secret nuclear program would be much more compelling if any new U.N. sanctions stipulated that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had to stop referring to himself on Facebook as “the Persian Tom Selleck.”

It has been speculated that this stunning punch of an announcement, set for a big reveal today, involves a series of burning flags and pictures as well as some scary-sounding Arabic chants. My own network of confidential sources, who I am now fairly certain are either Chinese hackers or a committed group of wildly talented, web-sawy wombats, are suggesting that today’s surprise is something much more awesome than some lame nukes.

The Iranian government has figured out the ending of the show and a couple hundred million dollars in oil money, has managed to reenact the first five seasons of the show in the last fifteen months. The announcement this week will let the world know that the project is humongous and Iran should break the code of the final few episodes in the next day or so.

Many in the international community are sure to be up in arms over this shocking news and will certainly call for Israel to bomb the secret Iranian underground research stations. If the Jews really do run Hollywood, expect a dozen or so F-16 fighter jets scrambled together immediately, as the final (and extremely profitable) season of the show would be totally one-upped by the Persian version.

George W. Bush, for all his shortcomings, was no friend of Weapons of Mass Confusion and seemed genuinly puzzled when his intelligence told him the Arab “Lost” project was actually in Iraq. While presidents are the favored punching bags of pretty much everyone, “Lost” project was actually in Iraq. While presidents are the favored punching bags of pretty much everyone, among us can say that watching “Lost” has never prompted them to make a face only Barbara Bush could love?

Tommy Maple

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

Column

Reader response

Today’s question:
Should people get over the Crist-Obama hug?

Wednesday’s question:
Will you participate in the water balloon fight?

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org
Guest column

UF College Republicans does not support animal cruelty

In response to Bruce Friedrich’s column printed Wednesday, I must take a moment to point out the grave inaccuracies in both his perceptions and argument against the College Republicans’ People Eating Tasty Animals event. First, Bruce pointed out that I was not at his forum/speech held at UF in October. While this is true, it does not negate the fact that he did not show up at my event, either. Bruce was quick to make harsh and thoroughly misguided judgments as to the intent of the event and my beliefs on the issue of animal rights.

For one, I thought this would all be established in the debate agreed to have with him, so I am not sure why the pre-emptive and wholly false attack on the College Republicans was printed just days before the event. Bruce, although many people have refused to debate your extremist views, I am not doing it for you. I am doing it to set the record straight on what a conservative, rational human being’s thoughts are on the issue of animal rights in this country.

Let me go ahead and state it, then, in case there is any confusion on Friday: Neither I nor the UF College Republicans support animal cruelty. In fact, I am in favor of government measures to reduce animal cruelty practices in the animal industry, so long as they do not cause the cost of food to exceed affordability by the average American trying to feed their families in hard economic times. I love people more than animals, and I believe people’s rights are superior. That being said, I have a strong respect for the animal kingdom and nature as a whole, and I would never want to see, nor would I actively endorse, cruelty to any living thing.

But, Bruce, our method of accomplishing positive change differs greatly. You and your organization, PETA, spend millions upon millions pushing an extremist viewpoint with unattainable goals (getting people to stop eating meat), and you call that dedication to the cause. I am going to work within the political system to make positive changes on this earth, including enforcing regulations on the animal industry to reduce animal cruelty practices. That is real dedication to the cause.

Bryan Griffin is the executive director of the Florida Federation of College Republicans.

Column

Student Body should not suffer for Unite Party’s mistakes

In November, about 75 graduate students showed up to a Student Senate meeting to voice their concerns about a resolution that would tax students for funds to renovate the Reitz Union.

The resolution, authored by Senate President Ashton Charles (now the Unite Party’s candidate for Student Body president), would call for students to pay for the proposed $42.5 million renovation with a new student fee.

Right now the average student pays $320 per year in fees to Student Government. These fees make up SG’s $14.4 million budget that goes to RecSports, campus programs and student organizations, among other things. And funds RecSports, campus programs and student fees make up SG’s $14.4 million budget that goes to RecSports, campus programs and student organizations, among other things. And funds RecSports, campus programs and student organizations, among other things. And funds RecSports, campus programs and student organizations, among other things. And funds RecSports, campus programs and student organizations, among other things.

After outrage over the fees mounted, Student Senate leaders begrudgingly offered to put a referendum on the upcoming spring election ballot to let the students decide themselves. The same referendum, by the way, was quick to make harsh and thoroughly misguided judgements as to the intent of the event and my beliefs on the issue of animal rights.

The resolution, authored by Senate President Jordan Johnson took the passed resolution to the UF Board of Trustees. Johnson used the resolution as evidence of full student support for increasing their own price of tuition to pay for Reitz Union renovations.

Don’t get out the pitchforks and lanterns yet.

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Bryan Griffin is the executive director of the Florida Federation of College Republicans.
Candidate vows to balance city budget

By CJ PRUNER
Alligator Writer

With the walls lined with guns and guitars, the small pawn shop at 523 NW Third Ave. hardly looks like the ideal place for a campaign headquarters.

Yet for Richard Selwach, the owner of Best Jewelry & Loan Pawnbrokers, the shop serves as his platform for engaging people to tell them his mayoral campaign plans — whether they want to hear it or not.

“People don’t want to hear the truth,” he said. “I’m here to tell you the truth.”

Selwach said he’s offering simple solutions to some of Gainesville’s biggest problems.

For students, Selwach wants to keep local bars open until 4 a.m. while requiring them to stop serving drinks at 2 a.m. He argued that this revision would give patrons a chance to sober up before leaving.

If elected, Selwach, a self-described libertarian, vows to balance the city’s budget by eliminating programs he sees as wasteful, such as the Office of Equal Opportunity and the Communications Office.

“We need to go back to the basics,” he said. “ Anything that’s not essential is up for the chopping block.”

He also opposes plans to build a biomass plant, which he said will burn an unnecessary amount of trees.

Coinciding with his stance on decriminalizing marijuana, Selwach offered a solution of burning hemp in place of the trees.

They “can put it in their biomass plant and smoke it,” he said.

Selwach is no stranger to bold statements, especially when it comes to the city’s anti-discrimination ordinance, which modifies Chapter 8 of the city’s Code of Ordinances to include protection from gender discrimination.

The ordinance allows citizens to use bathrooms that suit their gender identity, defined as “an inner sense of being a specific gender” as opposed to biological sex.

Selwach said that his opposition to the bill stems from what he described as sloppily written language, not an underlying prejudice toward transgender people.

“I’m not here to take any rights away from anyone,” said Selwach. “I’m not going to gamble with the safety of the children... a 10-year-old girl doesn’t need to see some guy’s penis.”

For Selwach, the anti-discrimination ordinance is such an important issue that he told Gainesville City Commissioner Craig Lowe, one of the other mayoral candidates who assisted in the ordinance’s passage, that he would drop out of the race if Lowe modified the language in the ordinance.

“I pulled him aside and told him ‘Craig, I like you, and if I wasn’t running, I’d vote for you,’” he said. “Sometimes it gets really heated but that’s politics.”

According to the latest campaign financial reports, Selwach has contributed $2,900 to his campaign.

As the March 16 election nears, Selwach insisted that if elected, he would use his role to serve and protect the people of Gainesville.

“In my life, before I go, I want to do the right thing,” he said. “You don’t want a guy like me to give up... I’m here to do my job.”
Forget the flowers: Cupid’s arrow works for singles, too

By MICHAEL PERRONE and AMELIA HARNISH

He Says...

Seriously, be a man!

Whining about not having a date for Valentine’s Day is something that only chicks are allowed to do. You should be happy that you aren’t going to be tied down this year. It’s only because it’s Valentine’s Day.

But you are going to have to go out into the wild of Gainesville’s nightlife – if you want to take part in the hunt. Don’t think that by surprising the cutie in your class who you never talk to with flowers on Friday will make her yours by Sunday.

When you are out there this weekend, play to their emotions. Talk about how fake and corporate Valentine’s Day has become. You could even throw out the sympathy card and tell a story about how your girlfriend just left you, and all the romantic things you had planned for Valentine’s Day have gone to waste. The strategies are endless.

But if you’re preparing for Valentine’s Day, prepare for it right. Have a boys’ night. Order some wings, pick up some beer, relax and watch whatever game is on. Overall, girl or no girl, it shouldn’t really matter. If you have a significant other, make sure you treat her right.

After all, Valentine’s Day is all about romance. Have a boys’ night. Order some wings, pick up some beer, relax and watch whatever game is on. Overall, girl or no girl, it shouldn’t really matter. If you have a significant other, make sure you treat her right.

But it doesn’t have to be this way. Last year around this time I was among the coupled, preparing for a romantic weekend in New York City with my beloved. Little did I know, he was preparing for his breakup speech, which, by the way, began with something like, “So, uh, if we break up, can we still have sex?”

I have good reason to be jaded. I’m tempted to spend Sunday wallowing in self-pity. I’m tempted to spend Sunday wallowing in self-pity. I’m a terrible taste in men, but instead, I’m going to make like Walt Whitman and sing the song of myself.

Just because you are down a significant other doesn’t mean you can’t celebrate.

Here are some tips for making Valentine’s Day a great day for you. A good bump in business for the floral industry and a nice excuse to eat chocolate, but nonetheless another day for us to celebrate the ones we love, which is something we should do every day.

Be proud. Singles are not equivalent to losers, so refrain from hiding. Go to dinner with your single friends, make cards for your roommates and treat yourself with a manicure or mini shopping spree.

Keep the faith. At this age, being single is hardly an omen. One day you will celebrate Valentine’s Day with someone special, but until then, don’t waste your time wondering why you’re single or if you’ll ever meet someone. You will. It is better to be alone than to be wasting your time with someone who is constantly letting you down.

Rachel Calderon, Hollanda Iwanski, Michelle Colby and Morgan Carlson model perfect pouts just in time for Valentine’s Day. Inside: how to get kissable lips, what to drink this holiday weekend, a lingerie fashion special, an all-new sexToon and more. Online: A Cupid-themed gay sex column, a review of romantic hot spots to eat this weekend and a new Alligator musicCast.

V-DAY PLAYLIST:

By JOEY FLECHAS

Every day needs a soundtrack, especially the holiday of love. There are plenty of super-sexed songs out there to last all night, but don’t forget that Valentine’s Day is about the romance, too.

1. “That’s How Strong My Love Is” by Otis Redding
2. “Earth Angel (Will You Be Mine)” by Death Cab for Cutie (cover The Penguins)
3. “Two Is Better Than One” by Boys Like Girls featuring Taylor Swift
4. “Home” by Edward Sharpe and The Magnetic Zeros
5. “Candy” by LL Cool J feat. Ralph Tresvant and Ricky Bell
6. “Everybody” by Sister Hazel
7. “Just the Way You Are” by Billy Joel
9. “Bonita Applebum” by A Tribe Called Quest
10. “Let’s Get Married” by Jagged Edge

The Avenue

thursday, february 11, 2010
the guide to DINING OUT

cuban

Omi's Kitchen
Gainesville's Best in Cuban, Italian, and Mexican Cuisine. New meals prepared daily. Come try our famous Cuban sandwiches and slow roasted pork. We cater 7 days a week! Visit us in the Tower Square 2 miles from Butler Plaza at 5729 SW 75th Street. 373-0031

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D'Lites Emporium
Healthier never tasted so good! D'Lites has the lowest calorie ice cream in Gainesville-REALLY! It's and is the only low-calorie soft serve with NO artificial sweeteners. We rotate over 100 delicious creamy flavors (see this week's at www.gatorlites.com) that are diet-friendly without the diet taste. We also feature a whole array of cookies, chips, and various grocery treats that appeal to Aikin's, Weight Watchers®, and other diets. Our every day daily specials make shopping at D'Lites a special value! Come weigh your options at the MarketPlace Plaza at NW 16th Blvd. and 43rd St. (next to the Hollywood Video) or at the Shoppes at Williston at S.W. 34th Street and Williston Rd. (next to Publix) 375-4484

jamaican

Caribbean Queen
Offering jerk chicken, goat and oxtail. Open Mon thru Thurs 11am-17:30pm, Fri & Sat 11am-11:45pm. Located at 507 NW 3rd Ave. 352-374-6111

Key West Style

Cabana Cove Key West Grille
Now offering a new bistro inspired menu. Open for lunch and dinner. Full martini and mojito bar. Voted nicest outdoor dining. COLON-PONTE VEDRA- COLON. Choose 1 appetizer, 2 entrees, a bottle of wine, and share a slice of Key Lime Pie. All for only $39.99 (expires 12/31/09) 2410 NW 34th Street

Key West Style

manuel's vintage room
This family owned restaurant is perfect for dinner any day of the week. Come in and check out one of the best wine lists in town. Ask questions and let them know you wait for the chef to put together something but goodness from the kitchen using fresh, simple, and local ingredients. Try the Early Dinner Sunday, Tuesday-Thursday 5-7pm. $3 wines/$10 bottles. $10 Menu. Ask about our Monday Wine Dinners and private parties for lunch or dinner. 6 South Main St. (352)375-7372

key west style

Green Mango
The best Indian food in Gainesville. Serving Gainesville since 1991. The best Samosas in Florida. Many offering many vegan dishes. We are specialized in catering any group size. Delivery available delivery on any purchase over $25! Open 7 days Mon-Sat 11:30am-9pm. 7025 NW Newberry Rd 352-505-6200.

key west style

Green Plants
The most Fogo, churrasco, & chofan in town. $5 To-Go Dinners, Mon-Sat from 4pm. Don't miss out $4.95 dinner + soda on Thursday, student night from 4pm-10pm. Visit us at 5150 SW 34th Street at the new Publix Shopping Center 7 days a week. We cater. Check us out online.

latin chinese

Ganasa
352-377-3275. Please use us online at www.cubanacove.net for additional savings and coupons.

mexican

Boca Fiesta
Best Margaritas in Town! Fresh-squeezed + all natural! Tasty tacos, burritos, nachos! Cheap beer, full bar, open late! Now serving brunch! 232 SE 1st St Downtown 336-TACO!

mexican

New York Pizza Plus
Bringing experience from New York & Italy to Gainesville! Offering a variety of gourmet pizza, homemade salads, pasta, & desserts. All you can eat buffet available! Outdoor dining. Visit: www.newyorkpizza.plus.com for coupons. We Deliver! 490 NE 23rd Ave. 376-5444

New Deal Café
OPEN LATE! Gainesville’s ONLY Local Beach Burger. This 1/2oz. Goliath is Naturally Aged and Fresh Ground. MONSTROUS desserts. HUGO Martin’s. 55 glasses of wine and 20 wines under $20! Mon-Thurs. 11am-11pm. Fri & Sat. 11am-11pm 371-4418 newdealcafe@gnv.com Located next door to Mildred’s. Keepin’ it fresh - Keepin’ it real!

New Deal Café

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Book Lover's Cafe
Vegetarian and Vegan cuisine. Natural, organic, fair trade, meals, sandwiches, soups, home-made desserts. Brunch Weekends. Specials: Cupcake Mon., Southern Cooking Tues., Greek Wed 6pm, Ethiopian Thurs 8pm. MO-TH 10am-9pm. Fri - Sun 10am-8pm. 505 NW 13th St. 384-0990

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mexican

43rd Street Deli and Breakfast House
Come in and experience the breakfast house that Gainesville residents have been coming to for over 25 years - we probably served your parents. Biggest 4 egg omelette, French toast, and daily specials. Not full yet? Have lunch with us & enjoy a large selection of sandwiches, the best Reuben, gyros, and soup all at a reasonable price. Vegetarians? Not a problem. We have a selection that is sure to fulfill your needs. We now offer free WiFi. Open All Day every day 7am-3pm. 4401 NW 20th Place 373-2927. 3483 Williston Rd 373-5566. Conveniently located off I-75

cuban

Cafe Gardens
For over a third of a century, the Original World Famous Cafe Gardens has been serving Gators with delicious food and a large selection of beers and wines. Located just across from campus near the Florida Book Store, this quaint landmark establishment with award winning courtyard dining is perfect for any date or gathering. For live music schedule, call 375-2233 Hours: Mon- Wed 11am-10pm, Thurs-Sat 11am-1pm, Sun 9pm-9pm. 1643 NW 1st Ave. Join us on Thursday late nights for “Midnight in the Garden” with Food & Drink specials and DJ cagarden.net

J. Doobies
The Home of Wraps and Stacks. The only way to describe the Stack is that it is outrageously delicious! Its uniquely different presentation - three 6 inch flour tortillas stacked high with fresh grilled ingredients and just the right accent of cheese - is strangely inviting to ones palate. Come out and try our 1/3 lb Burgers, steak seasoned Panchos & Fresh Baked Brownies. Many vegetarian options available including the The Home Grown and Homemade Black Bean Hummus! Now serving draft and red Stripe beers! We deliver! Open late to serve your late night cravings! Sun-Wed 1-3am. Thurs & Sat 11a.m-4pm. 34th St. Plaza (Sweetbay) @ 2124 SW 34th St. 672-6111 www.jdoobies.com

breakfast and lunch

american

Cracker Cuisine
The Yearling
Come taste the cuisine of old Florida! Try our traditional items including venison, quail, hog legs, and alligator, as well as USDA Prime beef, seafood, grits, greens & hush puppies. Open Thursday & Friday 5pm-10pm, Saturday 12pm-7pm & Sunday 12pm-8:30pm. 14531 East County Road 325 352-466-3999 www.theyeartingrestaurant.com

key west style

Key West Style

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This family owned restaurant is perfect for dinner any day of the week. Come in and check out one of the best wine lists in town. Ask questions and let them know you wait for the chef to put together something but goodness from the kitchen using fresh, simple, and local ingredients. Try the Early Dinner Sunday, Tuesday-Thursday 5-7pm. $3 wines/$10 bottles. $10 Menu. Ask about our Monday Wine Dinners and private parties for lunch or dinner. 6 South Main St. (352)375-7372

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Mildred’s Big City Food
Eat Gainesville’s Best Food at Mildred’s. We support LOCAL and SUSTAINABLE agriculture! Start Living Healthy! LOCAL. ORGANIC. GOOD. Fresh. Disgust Made From Scratch! OPEN SUNDAYS! COVERED PATIO JUST MINUTES FROM CAMPUS 3445 W. University Ave. 371-1711 Mildred’sBigCityFood.com

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mexican

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mexican
Delicious dessert: chocolate mousse

By SHAYNA BROUKER
avenue writer

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Wining and dining for everyone

By GABRIELLE FALCONIERI
avenue writer

---

Say cheers, what bubbly to buy

By RICHARD O. STEHLI
avenue writer

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Muah! How to get kissable lips

By RACHAEL PINO
Freelance Editor
Lingerie can be the perfect addition, for boys and girls, to a great Valentine’s Day. And with so many styles out there, there’s a perfect fit for everyone’s fashion taste, body type and level of sexiness. “Lingerie is suited to show your best assets,” said Rebecca Silver, sales associate at French Addict. “It cups and lifts boobs, and it streamlines the body for a slenderizing look.”

Here are three looks that shoppers can choose from for the holiday:

- **The corset.** The corset has been around since the 16th century and is famous for accentuating women’s curves and lifting the bust. Try it with a matching garter belt and stockings. This look is great for covering up your stomach after a delicious Valentine’s Day dinner.

- **The baby doll.** This is perfect for the girl who wants to be more romantic and create a fantasy for her man. The baby doll cut is seductive with lace, sweet with ruffles and flowers; or wild and crazy with neon colors. This is practical because it can be worn under any outfit, so you can whip off your clothes for a special surprise.

- **The basic bra and panty.** One can’t go wrong with a bra-and-panty-set. This look is seductive with lace; sweet with ruffles and flowers; or wild and crazy with neon colors. This is practical because it can be worn under any outfit, so you can whip off your clothes for a special surprise.

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**Dance like a pussycat**

By **ALLISON BANKO**

avenue writer

When flipping through music videos, it is difficult to keep your mouth from dropping at the sight of a Pussycat Dolls music video. Whether you are a boy or a girl confronted with the spectacle is irrelevant. The Dolls’ sultry demeanor and flawless stomaches causes most guys to contain themselves in their inner-seam and turns girls green with envy.

Luckily, Dolls creator and choreographer, Robin Antin, has sympathized with this small fleet of ours. Through the release of her “Pussycat Dolls Workout” DVD, she teaches dances that will give women the chance to come one step closer to becoming a Doll in their own sense. The DVD is divided into five parts that make up an hourlong workout of the warm-up, a dance to “Don’t Cha,” a dance to “Buttons,” a burlesque-style dance, and the cool-down.

**The Start of a Possible Disaster**

OK, let’s confront the big pink elephant in the room. Most of us are a bit apprehensive to even think about anything that involves dancing, even if it is in private. However, Antin has formulated her dances in ways that are so easy, even someone with two left feet could perform them.

**The Workout**

Antin kicks off the warm-up with the “Don’t Cha” dance. The DVD first breaks down the choreography of the dances, and then following adequate practice of the moves, Antin and the girls perform the dance to the PCD music with you. If you are the conservative type, moves like smacking your “booty” and “biting your finger” may take you a few tries to get comfortable with.

**The Final Verdict**

Initially one may think this workout is a “pussy” in itself. But you’ll be sweating by the start of the second song and thoroughly enjoying the process of finding your inner Doll. Antin teaches in a style that is easy to understand and motivating without being too military sergeant-like. You’re guaranteed to feel confident and sexy after shaking your ass and whipping your hair around in the routines. The moves are doable in the smallest of spaces, so your sad little dorm room will work fine.

Oh, and for the guys out there, if you are finding yourself “lonely” in the action department, this DVD contains barely clothed, sexy women doing provocative dance moves. And this may cause fewer viruses on your computer than those porn sites you visit.

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**Lace, lust and love**

By **ASHLEY MCCREDIE**

avenue writer

sexToon

Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger and choreographer Robin Antin show off their toned bodies. The PCD workout DVD uses dance moves to get viewers in sexy, glamorous shape.
MAGICAL MAZE

ALONE
W S K H E B Y V S P M J H E B
Y I V T Q O L G D T B Y W T
U N A C C O M P A N I E D

MG K I F D D A M B S Y W M
U L E S U L C E R S Q L O Y M

KE I F D O D E T O S E S A B
Z X W U S N H Q O A O E N R L
J H F D A E C A Y L N O T W
V T S R Q P L N P L F O E S K
I H T F E Y R A T I L O S D C
B S Z L A U D I V I N N Y

i find the listed words in the diagram. they run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

CLUE
1. Bug
2. Guide
3. Boundary
4. Difficult

DOW N

CLUE
1. A large lizard
2. A learned person
3. Potter classification
4. Lightly

BONUS

CLUE: Tropical

How to play: Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. With the puzzle complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

ANSWER

T I C N S E
R I S E H
T I L M
R Y C T I K

ANSWER

N I A A U G
C H A R L O S
R E C C I A M
F O S L Y T

Submit answers to TMS - 435 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60611 or DHY@sunisland.info.
**For Rent**

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 1BR/1BA $585
  - [27x876]4-21-10-65-2

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● Studios $475-$430.
  - [27x841]● 4-21-10-65-2

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 1BR/1BA $585
  - [27x841]● 352-372-0400 madisonpointe.org

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 1BR/1BA $585
  - [27x841]● www.efnproperties.com

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 3 blocks to UF - GATORNEST
  - [27x841]● 4 blocks to UF - GATORSIDE

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 4-21-10-65-2

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 1000sq ft, storage/laundry room with W/D
  - [27x841]● 10-10-2

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 3 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 400 sq ft, only $450!

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 352-375-2342
  - [27x841]● 530 sq ft, only $450!

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 3 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 300 sq ft, only $450!

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 1 BR Loft Style
  - [27x841]● www.chelsealaneapartments.com

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 4 BR's FOR FALL!
  - [27x841]● 2BD 1 BA Home for Rent

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 3 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 3BD 1 BA WALK TO UF

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 3 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 1BD Near UF

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 4 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 3-5-1-12-1

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 3 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 3-5-1-12-1

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 4 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 3-5-1-12-1

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 6 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 3-5-1-12-1

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 3 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 3-5-1-12-1

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 4 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 3-5-1-12-1

- **For Rent unfurnished**
  - [27x832]● 3 blocks to UF - GATORSEDE
  - [27x841]● 3-5-1-12-1
DON'T WAIT TO PLACE YOUR SUBLEASE AD
Last spring semester paper published on April 21st.

PLACE YOUR AD AT www.alligator.org
COLUMBIA, S.C. — Last year at South Carolina, one missed free throw led to a heartbreaking loss for Florida. Wednesday night, trouble at the line brought about another tough defeat in Colonial Life Arena.

UF (17-7, 6-4 Southeastern Conference) shot 10 of 23 from the free-throw line and fell 77-71 to South Carolina (14-9, 5-4 SEC) on the Gamecocks’ home floor.

“If we focused at the free-throw line and made free throws, don’t turn the ball over and keep them off the offensive glass, those three things keep them out of the game,” said junior forward Chandler Parsons, whose missed free throw last year allowed the Gamecocks to get a full-court pass and fast-break layup as time expired.

“South Carolina forward Sam Muldrow (right) blocks UF forward Chandler Parsons in the first half of the Gamecocks’ 77-71 win over the Gators on Wednesday.”

After jumping out to a 6-4 lead in the opening two and a half minutes, South Carolina didn’t lead again until 8:18 remained in the game.

The Gators established a 28-20 lead with 6:38 to go in the first half thanks to some hot early shooting, but sophomore point guard Erving Walker missed two of three free throws that could have pushed the lead to 10.

Florida entered the game second in the SEC in free-throw percentage, shooting 71 percent on the year. But aside from Walker, who scored six of his team-high 20 points from the line, no Gator made more than one free throw despite a combined 13 attempts.

Freshman forward Erik Murphy shot 1 of 5 from the free-throw line.

Parsons finished with a double-double (13 points, 13 rebounds).

The Tigers will look to pounce on UF’s inconsistency handling the ball. There have been a lot of games it will be an underdog toward the end of the season.

“We’re going to come out here and be physical. They’re going to be aggressive,” guard Jordan Jones said. “They pride themselves on defense.”

The Tigers’ aggressive defense is evident. LSU is tied with Kentucky for second in the nation (and first in the conference) in turnover margin (-8.0). Meanwhile, the Gators sit tied for 214th in the country (ninth in the SEC) in that category (-7.8).

The Tigers will look to pounce on UF’s inconsistency handling the ball. There have been a lot of games it will be an underdog toward the end of the season.

There must be something about the air in Columbia, S.C. Last year, Florida led for the final eight minutes before allowing a layup at the buzzer to lose 70-69. The Gators went on to finish 9-7 in the Southeastern Conference, go 1-1 in the SEC Tournament and miss the NCAA Tournament.

Wednesday night UF managed to lose a seven-point lead in the final seven minutes to South Carolina, whom the Gators are battling for position in the SEC East and Big Dance.

Florida found a way to lose a game in which it shot 56 percent while its opponent shot 38.2 percent.

Listen, even the best college basketball teams have a loss during the year that makes no sense. There is some randomness in 38.2 percent.

The Gators currently have a better resume than the Gamecocks, but the gap is slimming. South Carolina has nine losses, including Wofford. UF has seven.

Florida has a bad loss too — South Alabama (RPI 226). A strong nonconference schedule allowed the Gators to overcome those screwups. This isn’t the time to rekindle poor play.

UF had done a good job so far in SEC play of winning games it should. Florida lost to Kentucky (one of the best teams in the country), at Vanderbilt (the Commodores are having one of their better years) and in a one-point loss at Tennessee.

Now Florida has started down a perilous path. It has a lot of games it will be an underdog toward the end of the season.
Downey scores game-high 24 points

HOOPS, from page 18

11 rebounds), but shot 1 of 2 from the line, as did junior power forward Alex Tyus (11 points, 15 rebounds, 1-of-4 free-throw shooting).

UF finished with 20 turnovers, compared to South Carolina’s six. The Gamecocks wasted an otherwise-solid shooting night with their careless plays, as they finished 28 of 50 from the field.

“We shot such a high percentage, and we got layups and easy shots,” Donovan said. “But there were some times we really made some plays that were amazing.”

The Gamecocks capitalized on the Gators’ plentiful mistakes, but South Carolina made some changes of its own that kept Florida off-balance.

While it was all Devan Downey all the time in UF’s 58-56 win against USC in Gainesville on Jan. 23, the senior guard was far more effective at getting his teammates involved Wednesday night.

Downey still scored a game-high 24 points, but nine of them came on late-game free throws when the Gators were fouling to lengthen the game.

“I don’t want to sit here and take credit that we did this great job stopping him, because I’m not so sure we did,” Donovan said. “I thought he was a little bit more patient and got some more guys involved.”

Forward Sam Muldrow scored 16 points on 7-of-13 shooting, giving the Gamecocks a presence inside to distract the defense from putting its full attention on Downey, but guard Brandis Raley-Ross proved to be a reliable option from the outside as well, finishing with 20 points.

It was the first time this year two Gamecocks scored more than 20 points in one game.

“Their other guys are Division-I players. They’re good players,” Parsons said. “We just wanted to control Downey and not let them get so many points.”

Limiting turnovers will be key for Gators

W-HOOPS, from page 18

been games where the Gators have four or five turnovers in one half but cough up the ball double-digit times in the other.

Against Auburn, the Gators committed six turnovers in the first half but had 11 after halftime. And Florida’s 16 first-half turnovers proved costly against Georgia on Jan. 10.

“Mississippi State played really aggressive pressure defense,” Jones said. “But what we’re going to face with LSU, we’re going to have to multiply that by 10.”

If the Gators hope to win, they’ll have to play some defense, too.

That starts with trying to contain preseason SEC Player of the Year Allison Hightower. In 10 conference games this season, Hightower averaged 19.6 points per game. Teammate LaSondra Barrett isn’t far behind, scoring 17 per contest in conference action.

PHIL, from page 18

season. The Gators are likely to lose another close one — five of their last seven games have had a margin of single digits.

UF let a lesser team stick around, thanks to 20 turnovers and a 10-of-23 performance (43.5 percent) from the free-throw line. The Gators led from the 16:31 mark of the first half to 8:18 left in the game.

Earlier this week, I asked what UF’s strategy would be for handling USC guard Devan Downey. The SEC’s leading scorer had averaged just less than 30 points in his last three outings against UF.

Evring Walker said the plan was to let Downey score but shut everyone else down.

Forget that theory barely worked when South Carolina came to Gainesville. In that matchup, Downey had 36 in a two-point UF win (Chandler Parsons’ second buzzer-beater this season). The Gamecocks’ second-leading scorer, Sam Muldrow, had six.

So Wednesday night, Downey had what I would call a relatively “off” night. He had 24 points but made only one of six three-pointers and didn’t have nearly as many of his trademark unbelievable floaters or runners. It didn’t matter because Muldrow had 16 this time around and Brandis Raley-Ross chipped in 20.

Tough to say that strategy worked out, but the truth is South Carolina didn’t win this game. Florida lost it.

The Gators lost it with turnovers. They lost it at the free-throw line. They lost it because the Gamecocks were able to have 18 more shot attempts.

And I know Kyle Maistri beat this point into the ground in Wednesday’s paper, but Dan Werner’s presence on the court at the end of the game did hurt UF against South Carolina. I’m sorry, but it did. You can talk about intangibles and little things, but when one player is literally no threat to shoot the ball, the opponent figures that out eventually. He rarely shoots, even when he should. And when he took a mid-range jumper late in the game, he airballed it. His shot attempts may be a small pool to evaluate, but they look bad time after time.

Good news is UF has a big-time game against Xavier on Saturday to snap out of it.

UF needs to shake this one off from its memory, because it has a tough final stretch. The Gators must beat Auburn at home and Georgia on the road to leave them needing one or two from the following: Ole Miss, Tennessee, Vanderbilt and Kentucky.

A win would be easier if UF took care of business in Columbia. Just like last year.
Gators return all three starting outfielders in 2010

Although 2010 is being billed as a year of change for the Florida softball team, the Gators have the luxury of returning all three outfielders that started the final game of the 2009 season.

With Francesca Enea and Kelsey Bruder back to man the corners and the speedy Michelle Moultrie stepping into a starting role in center field, UF’s outfield is certainly the caliper that is expected from the No. 3 team in the nation.

Even though it comes as no surprise that all three players are back on the roster, there was reason to believe things might be looking a little different defensively.

At the end of the 2009 season, there was speculation that Bruder would be moving from right field back to first base, where she played during the early part of her career. However, a lack of depth in the outfield and a few adjustments in the infield have allowed the All-Southeastern Conference first team and All-SEC defensive team members to remain. “Kelsey was too valuable in the outfield and Megan (Bush) made a great transition to first,” coach Tim Walton said.

For as valuable as Bruder is in the outfield, she might be even more valuable at the plate.

Last season she hit .369 with 16 home runs and 68 RBIs while setting a UF single season record in total bases and tying the record for slugging percentage.

Still, the junior sees plenty of ways she can make her game even better. “There’s definitely always room for improvement, and I’ve been working really hard with coach before practice just getting my timing right and getting my swing back,” Bruder said.

Enea, who is tied with Bruder for the slugging percentage mark, also owns single season records in home runs and RBIs after hitting 18 and 70 a season ago.

Still, her biggest contribution to the team might come in the form of her leadership ability.

“Francesca is the one person if I had to put my hat on somebody as being a leader,” Walton said.

Walton feels that he has a team full of leaders, but Enea is clearly the most vocal of the bunch. “I just think that with two seniors and a large junior class the best thing we offer is the experience we all have playing in high pressure situations,” Enea said.

“We can really help younger players and tell them what to do in those situations and make sure they’re doing the right stuff.”

If experience under pressure is the key to success, then Moultrie should be well on her way.

Coming into last season, the plan was for Moultrie to split time in center with senior Kim Waleszonia. But Waleszonia fractured her knee early in the year, giving Moultrie a chance to prove herself full time, and she didn’t disappoint. From that point on she found her way into the starting lineup on numerous occasions, and that experience should make stepping into her role this year that much easier.

“She’s not taking on more than she’s had before, but the expectations are a little higher than last season,” Walton said.

Moultrie’s transition should also be eased by the presence of Enea, who was recently one of the fifty players named to the USA Softball Player of the Year Pre-season Watch List. “I just try to make her feel as comfortable as possible,” Enea said. “The outfielders are a relaxed group, but we take the position seriously. It’s about being able to relax, being comfortable, and having confidence in yourself. We want to help you learn from your mistakes and make sure you don’t repeat them.”