Firefighters to complete safety course today

By Erin Bryce
Alligator Writer

The roads may soon become a little safer.

Richard Saulsberry, one of the emergency vehicle course operators, said students are looking for respect.

Marc Adler, student Senate president and panel member, said students are looking for respect.

UF film tells obscure civil rights activist story

By Matthew Boedy
Alligator Staff Writer

Harry T. Moore is a name lost to history.

Moore's life is the subject of a film called "Freedom Never Dies: The Legacy of Harry T. Moore," created by the UF Documentary Institute. It aired on PBS in January and has had many screenings throughout the state.

At one time, he was the head of the Florida NAACP. And because of the bomb, he became the first martyr for the modern civil rights movement.

But his name is lost because his death came before what is often considered the beginning of the journey toward equality – the 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education that desegregated schools.

Moore's story is told in a film called "Freedom Never Dies: The Legacy of Harry T. Moore," created by the UF Documentary Institute. It aired on PBS in January and has had many screenings throughout the state.

And tonight at a screening in Alexandria, Va., sponsored by the Freedom Forum, another step will be taken to restore Moore's name.

"The only people that knew Moore, other than the Moore family, was a few history professors at UF," said one of the film's producers, Churchill Roberts, describing the institute's opening investigation into Moore and his death.

Roberts and fellow journalism professor Sandra Dickson said their film only is playing a small role in restoring the forgotten name of Moore.

Finding his way

Moore spent his childhood in Houston, Fla., a tiny farming community in Suwanee County. His father worked as a water tank supervisor for a railroad company, but after his death, Moore, then 9, was sent to Jacksonville by his mother to live with her three sisters.

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In that coastal town, then called the Harlem of the Deep South, Moore found blacks living independently and successfully. He saw intelligent blacks who were not looked down upon. When he went back to his home three years later, Moore took with him the ideas and images of freedom he saw in Jacksonville.

He went to college and became a civil rights activist.
Crowded school vouchers approved by panel

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — Thousands of public school students in crowded schools would be eligible for a $3,000 voucher to attend private schools under a bill a House panel approved Tuesday.

The legislation is the second voucher expansion measure to get committee approval in the House. A bill to give corporations tax credits for donating scholarships of up to $4,000 each to private schools has already cleared three committees.

Under current Florida law, vouchers to attend private schools at public expense currently are limited to children who are disabled or from failing public schools. But the constitutionality of spending tax dollars on private schools is in the courts.

A trial judge last year said the original voucher law, enacted in 1999, violated the state constitution by spending public dollars on private schools. The 1st District Court of Appeals overturned that decision and the issue is pending in the Florida Supreme Court.

The 11-5 vote Tuesday in the Education Innovation Committee was along party lines with the Republicans prevailing.

The measure would make a $3,000 voucher available to any student at a public school where enrollment is 120 percent of capacity. Although it can vary widely depending on location and student, the average cost of educating a student in a public school is around $5,000.

Rep. Carlos Lacasa, sponsor of the bill, said the average tuition at private schools was $3,400 for elementary grades and $4,400 for high school.

The Education Innovation Committee approved the tax-credit bill (HB 271) last month. That legislation was scheduled to be considered today by the House Council for Lifelong Learning. Its last stop before consideration by the full House after the two-month session that begins March 6.

University presidents, Bush discuss new board

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — The presidents of the state's universities met with Gov. Jeb Bush on Tuesday to talk about how to appoint the boards that would have the power to hire and fire them and create new university programs.

The presidents said they support replacing the Regents with local governing boards for each university, but told Bush the boards would be very powerful and it's important to choose their members carefully.

The Legislature last year voted to get rid of the Board of Regents by 2006. This year, lawmakers will take up proposals to determine how the state's education system will be run without the Regents.

A task force recommended a nine-member board of trustees be appointed by the governor for each of the state's 10 public universities. Among other responsibilities, the boards would hire and fire university presidents, create new programs up to the doctoral level, set tuition rates and take over the administration.

Nine of the presidents attended the meeting, retiring Florida A&M University President Frederick Humphries was absent.

The presidents and Bush agreed the boards should include major donors and outstanding researchers. Bush suggested expanding the search to include international candidates.

They also agreed nonvoting student members and community college liaisons should be represented.

The presidents suggested the number of board members should be higher.

The presidents acknowledged the faculty was concerned about the education overhaul.

In part to address those concerns, the presidents said they plan to form a coalition to discuss common concerns among the universities.

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University presidents, Bush discuss new board
Grant helps to grace I-75 with fresh, new look

By Ed Easton
Alligator Writer

In the next few years Alachua County interchanges along Interstate 75 will be getting a facelift thanks to a $5.5 million grant from the Florida Department of Transportation.

The I-75 Corridor Project will reshape the image of North Central Florida from Wildwood to the Florida-Georgia border. The project was designed to beautify the area and attract tourism by lining the roadway with native plants, reducing billboard congestion and providing alternatives to getting information to tourists, said Alachua County Commissioner Penny Wheat, who also is a member of the project’s planning council.

"We want this to be more than a gas up and pass freeway," Wheat said. "Most people just fly through with their pedal to the metal. We want them to know there's more to North Central Florida than just Disney World."

In 1996, the Florida Legislature approved the project to renovate the 1.44-mile stretch of I-75, and this year authorized the FDOT to release $1.5 million for the first year and $1 million a year for the next four years, Wheat said. Renovations should begin in early 2002 and finish about six months later.

"Specifically, the Legislature wanted to attract tourism and cut down on billboards," Wheat said. "Because this project is on the interstate highway, it was eligible for state funds."

The beautification part of the project will include planting indigenous plants and introducing historic artifacts tied to heritage tourism in the area, said Joe Montalto Jr., a consultant for the firm in charge of designing the project.

Montalto’s firm, Lochrane Engineering Inc., will be responsible for placing artifacts such as Civil War cannons marking the site of the Battle of Olustee and railroad memorabilia to mark Wildwood as one of Florida’s old railroad interchanges.

"We’re trying to do something creative and imaginative," Montalto said. "A project like this is new territory."

Another creative aspect of the project is cutting down on billboards at the same time as increasing alternative sources of tourist information, said Charlie Justice, executive director of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

The state will develop Web pages and create low frequency radio stations and driving tours, all designed to improve tourism while avoiding the clutter of roadside advertisements. Such a radio project is similar to the one Walt Disney World has on their way to Orlando along I-75.

"There are some really interesting themes being developed throughout the project," Justice said.

Fried enters race for chancellor of Honor Court

By Joe Black
Alligator Writer

Former Student Government Senior Policy Adviser Nikki Fried announced intentions to run for Honor Court Chancellor on Tuesday — marking the first time since 1997 that two candidates would be vying for SG's top judicial position.

Fried, an assistant defense counsel in the Honor Court, said she had contemplated running for student body president, but feels she could best serve in the Honor Court.

"I did a lot of soul searching and have decided to put all my energy into this because it's something I believe in," she said. "I want to make students aware of what the Honor Court does and how it affects them."

In the last three elections, only one candidate each year qualified to be chancellor. Fried will be running against sitting Honor Court Chancellor Doug Myers, who took the position after the resignation of Ryan Chandler in October.

Students running for chancellor must be attending UF's Fredric G. Levin College of Law and be a member of the Student Honor Court Bar Association. Candidates must have taken the law school's evidence class and have tried cases before the Honor Court.

In the past, Fried served as Student Senate President and as a senator on both the Budget and Judiciary committees. She also has worked as an assistant director for the Woman’s Affairs Cabinet and as legal counsel for the Impact and Students Unite Now parties. She said she will no longer be affiliated with any party for the election because while in office, chancellors cannot be affiliated with any of the political parties and cannot campaign with any party.

The chancellor serves as head of the Board of Masters, UF's version of the Supreme Court, which hears cases concerning SG law, interpretations of the SG Constitution and SG official duties.

Fried said she would like to see the Honor Court begin to take on conduct violation cases, such as alcohol violations, in addition to the academic dishonesty cases. The Student Judicial Affairs Office currently hears conduct violation cases.

"We want to have as many of the cases as possible go through," Fried said. "It's a student-friendly place and we want to try and help."

The Honor Court recently was given permission from the Judicial Affairs Office to begin trying cases again. The court stopped hearings because of a revamping of its system that sped up the time it takes to hear cases. Cases can now be heard in 21 days, which is more than 30 days faster than the old system.

Since the revamping, no cases have been heard by the Honor Court.

SG elections will be held March 27-28.

Joe Black can be reached at jblack@alligator.org

Chasing shadows

Second-grader Jonathan Long chases his brother, FAMU student Charles Ghoston, on a court near Lincoln Middle School on Monday afternoon.

SG remembers officer, faculty member

By Joe Black
Alligator Writer

The Student Senate passed resolutions at its meeting Tuesday to commemorate the lives of a Gainesville Police officer killed in the line of duty and a Reitz Union faculty member who recently passed away.

Senate President Marc Adler said senators write legislation when members of UF community die to show respect.

"It's something we can offer to the families as a way we can recognize the loss of life," he said. "Every loss of life is tragic and needs to be recognized."

Adler said the resolutions are framed and sent to the families after they are passed through the Senate.


Baird was waiting for help to move a batting cage when a car struck the cage, which struck and killed the officer. No one has been charged in putting the cage on the road. Baird is the first officer to die on duty in more than 10 years.

The resolution stated that he will be remembered for "his contribution to society, the Gainesville community and the students of the University of Florida."

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Affairs Cabinet Director Alex Alonso offered a resolution to honor Belinda Griswold, a UF faculty member who worked in the Reitz Union.

The resolution stated, "Belinda consistently sought to assist student leaders in the various programs they host and ... was a constant source of support and encouragement to the students of the university."

Alonso said Griswold was someone who was always there to help with the programs that organizations put on and was an asset to the UF community.

"It's so tragic because this is someone who worked to help all of us and all of the [SG] organizations' funds," Alonso said.

Last week a similar resolution passed for Professor Mark Trimble, an orthopedics professor in the College of Health Professions, who died after suffering an aneurysm on Friday.

Bills written by Senator Ken Kerns were tabled that attempted to fix aspects of the student body statutes which were found constitutional by the Board of Masters. Those bills moved these statutes to the Senate Rules and Procedures as the Masters mandated. No other action has been taken to correct the constitutionality of statutes the Masters struck down earlier this week.

Those bills are expected to be heard by the Senate next week.

The Senate will meet Tuesday in Reitz Union at 7:30 p.m.

Joe Black can be reached at jblack@alligator.org
State to file additional misconduct charges against accused guards

Alachua County prosecutors have decided to file additional charges against four Florida State Prison guards who were cleared of a second-degree murder charge for the beating death of an inmate.

At a pre-trial conference Monday in Starke, Assistant State Attorney Gigi Mebion said the state would seek to file an official misconduct charge against prison guards Timothy A. Thornton, Jason P. Griffis, Charles A. Brown and Robert W. Sauls.

The former correction officers are facing life sentences in prison for what prosecutors said is the beating death of Death Row inmate Frank Valdes in July 1999.

The official charge is a third-degree felony and would be filed in the next two weeks, said State Attorney's Office spokesman and investigator Spencer Mann.

"We have an ongoing investigation, and it was the appropriate action to take," he said.

Mann would not specify the details behind the new charge, but said it would be "complicit with the investigation."

"He said he was not sure how much would be added to the prison sentence the guards are facing.

Also, due to his heavy Florida Senate responsibilities, former State Attorney Rod Smith -- who was expected to prosecute the July trial, stepped back from that task, Mann said.

-- Matthew Boedy

TOWING

and make recommendations concerning changing rate in the city's roaming towing ordinance.

In October, towing companies proposed a $30 rate increase within city limits. The current $70 rate maximum has been in effect since 1994 after a large number of citizens complained that towing companies were charging more than $300 a tow.

In requesting the new $100 rate, towing companies cited a 36 percent rise in fuel costs and a 7 percent rise in insurance costs, a 58 percent rise in fuel costs and a 16 percent cost-of-living raise.

In December, the City Commission passed motions to separate the towing issues. The Audit and Finance Committee will discuss the fees and the Public Safety Committee will discuss the ethical practices of tow companies.

The Audit and Finance committee will hold its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 28.

Mayor Paula DeLaney, chair of that committee, said she does not believe there is a large amount of public support behind the towing companies.

"I would assume there is going to be a lot of sentiment that people in the community don't want these fees raised," she said. "When you have an issue like this, people pick up on them. When an issue goes away for a couple of years, I don't think the community realizes that roaming towing means you're going to get towed. It is public policy."

Moore said freedom never descends upon a people, it always bought with a price. And sometimes that price is anonymity in history.

-- Matthew Boedy can be reached at mboedy@alligator.org

Harry T. Moore, a Florida civil-rights advocate, was killed in relative anonymity by a bomb in 1951. His life is the subject of a documentary created by the UF Documentary Institute.
WASHINGTON - Government scientists have created a potential vaccine against a virus that causes cervical cancer, a promising development against a cancer that each year kills 200,000 women worldwide, including 5,000 Americans.

The experimental vaccine just passed its first human safety test but has years more testing ahead to prove if it does protect women against cancer.

Still, "the prospects for this vaccine are remarkably promising," said Dr. Harald zur Hausen, a cervical cancer expert in Heidelberg, Germany. He reviewed the research in Tuesday's Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Until a vaccine becomes reality, a widely available virus test is highly effective at telling which of 2 million American women with inconclusive Pap smears each year need further cancer exams - and who can relax, says a second study in Tuesday's journal.

But when that exam is not conclusive, Digene's test may help those women decide if they need a biopsy - or, by ruling out viral infection, provide "excellent reassurance" that they are healthy and should just continue regular Pap testing.

Human papillomavirus, or HPV, is a sexually transmitted virus that infects some 40 million Americans. There are over 80 strains, the vast majority symptomless and harmless. But some strains cause cervical cancer, including HPV-16, considered the riskiest and the one the experimental vaccine targets.

Pap smears are not perfect - about 2 million of the 50 million done each year in the United States are inconclusive. The vast majority of those women prove to be healthy, but doctors struggle over how to catch the precancer cases without subjecting too many healthy women to unnecessary biopsies or repeat Pap smears.

San Francisco - Napster Inc. offered $1 billion to the recording industry Tuesday to settle a copyright infringement lawsuit threatening to shut down the free Internet song-swapping service.

Under the proposal, $150 million would be paid annually for the first five years to Sony, Warner, BMG, EMI and Universal, with $50 million allotted annually for independent labels.

"We all ought to sit down and settle this case as fast as we can," Napster chief executive Hank Barry said. "We're saying this is something consumers really want. Let's do something to keep it going."

However, opponents urged Napster to accept a federal injunction ordering it to block copyrighted music from its service.

"This path would be more productive than trying to engage in business negotiations through the media," said Hilary Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America.

The offer was announced a week after a federal appeals court said the music industry almost certainly will win its lawsuit against the pioneering digital entertainment company.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered Napster to stop millions of users from swapping copyrighted music without charge and without restriction.

Napster has vowed to appeal. Napster has argued it is not to blame for how subscribers use copyrighted material, citing a 1984 case in which the Supreme Court refused to hold VCR manufacturers and videotape retailers liable for people copying movies.

But the appeals court said Napster is not protected because the company knew users were swapping copyrighted songs.

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Match made in heaven

The death knell that sounded for the music-swapping Internet site Napster may have sounded a bit prematurely. The folks at Napster have decided to take action, rather than wait for the courts to grant them another reprieve.

Napster Inc. proposed a $1 billion settlement with major and independent record labels on Tuesday in an attempt to end the lawsuit threatening to shut the site down. The proposal serves as a peace offering from Napster to the recording industry.

But what a costly gesture it will be...

The settlement proposed would pay $150 million annually for the first five years to the major record labels - Sony, Warner, BMG, EMI and Universal - with an additional $50 million allotted annually for independent labels. That's a rather sizeable amount of change, but much less than it would cost Napster CEO Hank Barry and founder Shawn Fanning if the site ceased to exist altogether.

The settlement is a last gasp by Napster Inc., whose existence is in serious jeopardy after a three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the company to stop allowing the millions of people who use the site to swap copyrighted music without charge and without restriction.

Unfortunately, the Recording Industry Association of America does not seem to be too excited about the idea. RIAA President and CEO Hilary Rosen made an announcement Tuesday as well. Her message was for Napster to await the court decision and their fate.

"To the management of Napster I say again: You claim you want to be legitimate, and negotiate licenses based on real business models. I urge you to act accordingly. Stop the infringements, stop the delay tactics in court, and redouble your efforts to build a legitimate system."

Rosen has made the RIAA's stance perfectly clear. The recording industry is in no hurry to settle with a company they feel has been stealing their members' music and distributing it without permission or financial restitution.

That is unfortunate. The recording industry and Napster are on the same team here, they just look at the game differently. The RIAA thinks in profits, Napster thinks in terms of distribution. Both are correct, they just have to learn to work together.

The swamping of music on the Internet isn't going anywhere and Napster already has a huge following. The RIAA should realize that and try to work with Napster, rather than against it. It makes good business sense.

The RIAA and Napster could join forces, share profits, increase its capital and eventually make business for both parties much better.

The problem with Rosen and the rest of the RIAA is they are not looking at the big picture. They are not looking far enough down the road here. It is clear this is the next logical step in the evolution of music marketing.

The RIAA needs to get off board here while the getting is good. They have an offer on the table to pay them a substantial amount of money for the simple act of dropping a lawsuit and working with the Internet company to find an acceptable profit model for all those concerned.

Plus, they have an opportunity to start working with Napster to increase their opportunities to market digital music, something both parties seemingly are very interested in.

A partnership between these two companies would be huge for all concerned. Napster is ready. All that is needed is a little vision from the RIAA.

Guest Column

Diversity problem present at UF

UF College of Law Professors Jeffrey L. Harrison and Amy K. Mashburn last Sunday wrote an opinion piece published in The Gainesville Sun, describing those who stood up to the system as "self-appointed civil rights leaders [who] seem unable or unwilling to do much more thangender who can make sweeping statements about their colleagues and co-workers."

These charges are lacking in substance.

The main event that prompted the diversity debate was the resignation of Professor Kenneth Nunn from his position as associate dean of the Fredric G. Levin College of Law. Professor Nunn had the courage to resign his position in protest of a lack of diversity within the law school. He exposed a problem that needed immediate attention that many were reluctant to address. The administration promptly admitted the problem and hired an outside consultant, John Sands, to investigate the matter and to report his findings to the school. Now, Professors Harrison and Mashburn have argued that the administration overreacted when it admitted that there has been a diversity problem. Also, Professors Harrison and Mashburn have contended that those who are talking about the lack of diversity have proposed no specific solutions.

The administration deserves praise for accepting the fact that the problem exists. If the administration were to play willful blindness about the problem, we could hardly expect any effort to solve it. We should agree with those who think that name-calling has no place in such an important and sensitive debate as diversity. But accusing those who stood up as "self-appointed civil rights leaders" just because they have exposed the problem seems to many of us a tactic to divert people's attention from the real issue.

Over the years, the law school has embarked in efforts to recruit more minority students. These efforts have paid off, yet admitting a few more minorities is not enough if there is a shortage of faculty members and administrators to support the learning environment where everyone feels welcome regardless of race, ethnicity or origin. Furthermore, we must realize that people feel more secure and more comfortable when they can identify themselves with others who share the same concerns.

Whether the administration is committed to addressing all students' concerns and problems regardless of race or gender is not the real issue. The bottom line is that everyone is entitled to be represented on the governing body that holds seats of power and has voices of influence.

Professors Harrison and Mashburn wrote that "graduating from the top of one's class at a prestigious law school, being a member on law review publishing a legal article, and having some period of practice or a judicial clerkship are among the qualifications required for law teaching. They further maintained that few minorities have met these rigorous qualifications. However, the Alligator reported Professors Harrison and Mashburn said their assertion is incorrect. But let us give them the benefit of doubt since they argue that the few qualified minorities were quickly recruited by other schools."

Larry R. Fleurantin

Speaking Out

Now the question becomes what prevents the law school from recruiting those minorities through a specifically designed aggressive program? There must be a better explanation as to why the law school is slow to hire minority faculty but fast to let them go. Don't we need a matter of qualifications? Perhaps, the law school does not want to admit it. However, many believe the main reason for the lack of diversity is that the working environment has been inhospitable to minorities.

We must admit that diversity is indeed a difficult issue that needs to be dealt with in a conscious manner. Arguing that diversity is not a way to build a better law school seems to obscure the real issue. We don't need diversity but illumination.

Because the issue of diversity is a ubiquitous institutionalized problem, the law school should make it clear that it cannot solve overnight. Yet today's student leader, faculty and administrators can lay the foundation for the radical future changes.

The short term solution needs to include an aggressive recruitment program of minorities and others, the adoption of a culture recognizing different view points, and mutual respect at creating a better environment where students, faculty and administrators can work together to continue the law school's tradition of excellence.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Alligator.
'Eric' campaign annoying, wrong

Editor: Do you agree with Eric? I certainly don’t.

For at least a week now, I have seen signs that read 'I Agree With Eric' plastered all over campus or chalked into the ground. It piqued my curiosity at first, but then it began to annoy me.

Who was Eric, and what was I supposed to agree with him about?

And then, in Monday's Alligator, I found out what Eric was all about.

I believe that if there was a Jesus Christ, which I doubt, that he could not possibly be fully God and fully man, since one is wholly perfect, the other wholly imperfect. I believe that each man, woman and child has their own life to live, and that if it was given to them as a gift, there were no strings attached telling them how to live it. And finally, I believe that hope, life and love for each other can only be found within our own hearts.

Matt Goldstein
4LS

'Eric' supporters committing a sin

Editor: Step right up, step right up. Buy your very own 'I Agree With Eric' T-shirt. This 100 percent cotton yellow ditty can be worn with your 'What Would Jesus Do?' bracelet.

While wearing both of them, you can show everyone that you’re a firm believer in God without even uttering a word.

Don’t bother telling people about God (Matthew 28:19), living a Christian life (Colossians 3:16), or even reading the Bible for yourself (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Campus Crusade, I hope you’re reading this. You’ve committed one of the greatest sins against Jesus (Matthew 6) while at the same time promoting the success of one of the worst groups of sinners, business majors.

Ryan Aycock
3LS

University of Florida Center for Jewish Studies is pleased to welcome Chris Monaco, Historian, Documentary Film Maker

“Utopian Dreams and Railroad Schemes: the Levy-Yulee Family of Antebellum Florida”

Thursday, February 22, 8:00pm
Reitz Union, Room 361-363

This lecture is free and open to the public. A reception will follow.

For more information, call 392-9247.

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Lawmakers debate the standards of electoral reform

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE – With images of the painful expressions of elections workers holding up ballots to the light fresh in their memory, lawmakers are expected to overhaul Florida's patchwork electoral system with an emphasis on updating worn-out voting equipment.

It did not take long for the task force trying to clean up the mess that left Florida the butt of jokes by late-night comedians to decide that the era of the notorious punch-card ballot must come to an end.

"It's a realistic assumption that we'll do away with the punch-card," said Sen. Bill Posey, R-Rockledge, chairman of the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee.

A single type of voting mechanism throughout the state should not only reduce the need to perform recounts, but also make it easier to craft laws creating standards for recounts.

Although establishing a unified statewide system will be some lawmakers' highest election reform priority, many are more concerned with settling statewide standards to repair the vagaries of Florida law that translated into a myriad of court challenges.

The biggest problem: the method of voting.

Not everyone agrees that the state should move to a unified voting system.

The head of Florida's elections division, Clay Roberts, said the state must establish such a system.

"My reading of Bush vs. Gore and the Florida Supreme Court reading of Bush vs. Gore is we may have serious equal protection problems if we don't," Roberts said.

But Senate President John McKay, R-Bradenton, and House Speaker Tom Feeney don't see the necessity for a unified system.

"We just need to be sure that it's reliable and some standards are set so you don't have to pick up the machine and bang it up and down," McKay said.

One reason lawmakers are leery of synchronizing all of Florida's 67 counties with the same voting system is money. Estimated costs of updating the 42 counties not using the precinct-based optical scanning systems, generally considered to be the most reliable devices, range from $20 million to more than $200 million for top-of-the-line equipment.

Posey said it would be unfair to counties that have already ante up their own money to upgrade their systems for the state to bailout the counties that did not.

Instead, he is considering long-term loans for new equipment or using county money to be spent on purchasing new equipment or, for those counties who don't need it, on other elections-related necessities, like ballots.

Provisional ballots, Posey's second priority, would allow voters to cast the ballots even if their registration is in question.

The committee has approved expanding absentee ballot provisions to allow any eligible voter to vote by absentee without an excuse to do so, as is currently required.

Roberts wants to take that a step further and establish a statewide voter registration database, which his office estimates would cost about $3 million to design. He's also asking for $13 million to take care of certifying the new voting systems.
Religious groups join skeptics of Bush's plan

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's plan to allow churches, synagogues and other religious bodies to compete for government money is drawing quiet objections from religious groups that are among the biggest providers of social services.

While not opposing Bush's initiative outright, Lutheran, Catholic and Jewish groups are raising concerns about potential religious discrimination and coercion, echoing arguments from civil libertarian quarters.

"We believe basically in that separation in church and state," said Joanne Negstad, president of Lutheran Services in America, an umbrella organization for 280 groups. The White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives opened Tuesday, and its head, John Dilulio, has been busy meeting with these and other groups, trying to address concerns and build support.

The most vocal opposition to Bush's proposal has come from groups such as Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union. But religious groups that are providing social services are quietly making virtually identical points, while hoping they will have a place at the table when policy details are settled.

"There are a thicket of questions that we would look forward to discussing," said Diana Aviv, vice president for public policy for United Jewish Communities, which represents 189 local Jewish federations.

She and others also hope to use momentum from Bush's initiative to press for more total social service spending — something Bush has not proposed.

She also worries about forcing participants in a government program to take part in religious activities. "Those people are in a dependency kind of relationship," she said. "What concerns us is those religious activities are required. We really believe they need to be voluntary."

Religious groups are voicing other concerns as well, including government infringement on churches' freedom. Others worry about government funding of religious groups outside the mainstream, such as the Church of Scientology and the Nation of Islam.

Groups with religious ties have received government funding for decades, but to avoid constitutional problems, they have set up separate organizations. These spin-off groups might offer religious services, but those services cannot be required or incorporated into the core of programs. And unlike the churches and synagogues, the groups must adhere to anti-discrimination laws that govern hiring.

Under Bush's plan, religious groups could compete for government funding directly, without establishing separate organizations or altering the religious core of their programming.

It's an expansion of the "charitable choice" provision first adopted in the 1996 welfare overhaul. The issue got little attention, dwarfed by the sweeping issues surrounding changing the welfare system. The provision later was extended to community development and drug treatment programs with little fanfare.

Now that Bush wants to expand the provision to all government-funded social services, it is getting a much closer look.

"I think this is a question for the American people as well as the courts," said Sharon Daily, vice president for social policy at Catholic Charities USA.
Sleepless doggy gets drugs for unique condition

By Juan Ortega
Alligator Writer

A new diagnosis by UF veterinarians may mark an end to an 85-pound golden retriever's nighttime miseries.

Four-year-old Dreyfus started showing signs of restlessness during his sleep when he was eight months old.

As he slept, the disorder propels Dreyfus across the floor making him knock over furniture. This includes violent episodes of banging his head, crying and rapid leg movements.

After Dreyfus' owner Scott Crane suspected Boca Raton veterinarians' diagnosis of epilepsy was wrong, he sought a second opinion.

Crane found Stanford University's veterinary department over the Internet, where he was referred to UF's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Almost two weeks ago, UF veterinarians diagnosed Dreyfus with a rare case of a rapid eye movement disorder, which prevents Dreyfus' body from having a natural muscle paralysis during his sleep that is needed for him to get a good night's rest.

"Not only is it exhausting for Dreyfus, but for everyone else who sleeps in the same house as Dreyfus. That's the problem," said Cheryl Chrisman, a veterinary neurologist and professor of small animal clinical sciences at UF.

Veterinarians diagnosed Dreyfus through a test known as polysomnography that involves attaching electrodes to his body. The test measures brainwave activity, muscle tone, eye movements and heart and respiration rates during first-stage sleep and during the second stage of sleep commonly known as rapid eye movement sleep.

UF has offered Dreyfus free medical treatment due to its unique 'first-of-its-kind' nature, Crane said.

Dreyfus and Crane have returned home to Boca Raton where Dreyfus is being treated with three different drugs that have helped humans with the condition.

The drugs aim to tame Dreyfus and relax his muscles during sleep.

But with the medicine, Dreyfus has not shown improvement.

"He's been lethargic because of the medicine," Crane said. "It looked as if he was drunk.

Chrisman said UF veterinarians will adjust Dreyfus' medication and dosage depending on how Dreyfus reacts to the medicine.
UF’s Living Well Program Offers Ways to Manage, Prevent Lower Back Pain

It is important to note that the following information about low back pain and management strategies is intended for informational purposes and does not constitute medical advice. In all instances, it is recommended that those suffering from low back pain consult a physician for diagnosis and treatment, including a referral to a physical therapist.

In addition to other rehabilitative modalities, physical therapy most often includes very specific flexibility and strengthening exercises designed to manage and prevent low back pain. A primary exercise training objective is to condition the muscles, tendons and ligaments of the back, abdomen and hips so that they are in balance and able to establish and maintain what is termed the “neutral spine position.” In essence, these structures are responsible for supporting the natural curves of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar areas of the spine. When they do so with the appropriate balance of strength and flexibility, the “neutral spine position” is attained. Conversely, muscle imbalances and inflexibilities can increase or decrease spinal curves and ultimately result in chronic back pain and greater risk of back injury or re-injury.

It is clear that rehabilitative and/or preventive exercise regimens included in physical therapy help to achieve remarkable success in resolving and preventing low back pain. The rub lies in the fact that to continue to enjoy that success, the exercise must be ongoing. For many, finding a program that builds upon the clinical gains provided by physical therapy can be problematic. Also, those who wish to prevent back pain and injury may have difficulty locating a program. Living Well, or LW, the University of Florida’s health and fitness program for faculty and staff, now provides such an option.

LW is pleased to announce the Back Health Program, a program of education and exercise developed to assist UF employees in the management or prevention of low back pain. At the center of this program are the MedX “Core Four” machines. The abdominal, the exercise lumbar and the rotary torso machines are designed to isolate and strengthen the muscles of the trunk. The MedX Stretch machine provides precise flexibility exercises for the muscles, tendons and ligaments of the back and hips. The MedX machines are state of the art and feature technology translated directly from the clinical versions. The Back Health Program is offered to members at no additional charge through LW’s “Fitness Focus” option.

For information, call Living Well at 392-8189 or visit our Web site at www.hhp.ufl.edu/livwel. Our facility is located at Room 12 in Yon Hall on the East side of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

Florida Blue Key Appoints Homecoming, Growl Leaders

Florida Blue Key recently approved Shaun Goldfarb as the homecoming general chairman and Matthew Heekin as the Gator Growl producer for the 2001 Gator Homecoming Week.

“Both young men bring a lot to the table. They are both different, so it will be interesting to see them work together,” said Myra Morgan, assistant director of the Relitz Union.

Goldfarb is a five-year accounting master’s student. He recently was hired by Price Waterhouse Coopers accounting in Atlanta and will begin in January, “I hope to begin the year by establishing a strong working relationship with the Gator Growl producer and the Florida Blue Key president,” Goldfarb said. “I hope to increase more campus-wide student involvement in all Homecoming activities. I feel that bringing the entire campus together and not just the Greek community will make the week more exciting.”

Heekin is a business major. “My No. 1 goal is to start early and plan in advance, so that the creative aspects are able to come together with time and are not rushed,” Heekin said. “This year, I would like to produce a more intense show that captivates the audience with fewer passes in the show schedule. I really want to wow the crowd, and most of all, make them laugh.”

Heekin began working on the Gator Growl and Homecoming celebration in 1997, as an assistant director of tickets. He was the director of tickets in 1998 and then head writer of the 1999 Gator Growl show.

Goldfarb began as a staff member for the Homecoming Parade in 1996. He was later appointed as the 1999 Homecoming coordinator and Gator Growl. His involvement continued as the associate general chairman for Homecoming 2000.

Homecoming week will begin on Oct. 29 and Gator Growl is scheduled for Nov. 2. This year will mark Florida Blue Key’s 78th Homecoming celebration, the 79th Homecoming parade and the 76th Gator Growl pep rally. Florida Blue Key produces Homecoming and Gator Growl for the university. Gator Growl is the largest student-run pep rally in the country and had more than 56,000 in attendance last year. In the past, comedians such as Robin Williams and Jerry Seinfeld have appeared on the stage at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

“I postponed my job in Atlanta for the experience to make a difference at UF,” Goldfarb said. “I hope that I leave a positive mark on the traditions of the Homecoming celebration.”

The Homecoming and Gator Growl staff selection process was no easy task. The application process consisted of a letter of intent with an attached resume highlighting activities and involvement on campus, followed by a 30-minute interview conducted by the Florida Blue Key president and three past homecoming general chairs.
Activities on Campus

Deadlines

Today is the last day to register a political party with the Office of Student Activities for the Student Government Spring Elections. Qualifying will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Tuesday in the Reitz Union, Room 318. For information, call 392-1665, Ext. 305.

Applications for the 2001 Spring Outstanding Leadership Award for Undergraduate Male and Female Graduating Seniors must be returned to Dean Julie Sina in P202 Peabody Hall by 4 p.m. Feb. 28. Applications are available in P202 Peabody Hall. For information, call 392-1261.

Applications for the Reitz Union Board of Managers must be turned in to Reitz Union, Room 101 by 4 p.m. March 20. For information, call 392-1644.

Lectures

The Interdisciplinary Reproductive Biology Group presents Evolutionary Quantitative Genetics of Ovarian Number, A Reproductive Fitness Trait in Drosophila at 4 p.m. today in the Barron Conference Room M304, Health Science Center. For information, call 392-9566.

The Ethnobotanical Society presents Biodiversity Lost and Found: Forest Restoration and Fish Faunal Refugia in Uganda at 4 p.m. today in McCarty Hall, Room 1031. For information, call 392-2624.

The Center for Jewish Studies presents Utopian Dreams and Railroad Schemes: The Levi-Yulee Family of Antebellum Florida at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Reitz Union, Room 361-363. For information, call 392-9247.

The Center for African Studies presents Consequences of Flexible Behavior of Fishers for Sustainable Fisheries and Conservation in Lake Victoria, East Africa at 2 p.m. Friday in 471 Grinner Hall. For information, call 392-2183.

The Center for Latin American Studies, the Department of Religion and the Rockefeller Residential Fellowship present Religion and Globalization in the Americas from 10:30 a.m.-noon Monday in 219 Dauer Hall. A workshop will follow from 1-3 p.m. For information, call 392-0375.

The College of Health and Human Performance presents Hard to Reach or Hardly Reached? Using Communication to Reduce Health Disparities at 4 p.m. Monday in the Reitz Union Auditorium. For information, call 392-0576.

The College of Health and Human Performance presents A Comprehensive Approach to the Assessment of Sport-Related Concussion at 4 p.m. Tuesday in 210 Florida Gym. For information, call 392-0576, Ext. 1297.

Workshops/Conference/Meetings

There will be a library orientation session from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. today in Library West, Room 146. There also will be a presentation about the Electronic Library from 11:45 a.m.-12:35 p.m. Thursday in the Marriott Science Library, Room 107. For information, call 392-0361.

Academic Advising offers students applying for the 2001 entering class application workshops for allopathic medicine today and osteopathic, dental, veterinary and podiatric Thursday. Both workshops are held 3-5 p.m. in the Academic Advising Center, Ext. 204.

The Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies presents the third orientation meeting for the Russian Language and Culture Summer Program at Moscow State University at 5:45 p.m. today in 233 Dauer Hall. For information, call 392-2101.

Exhibit Art from Ireland, on display through March 16, from 7-9 p.m. Saturday in the Reitz Union Gallery. For information, call 392-2578.

Music

Dame Cleo Laine and John Dankworth perform at 8 p.m. Sunday at the Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available at the Phillips Center box office. For information, call 392-2787.

The School of Music presents a faculty recital by flutist Beth Chandler and pianist Kevin Orr at 4 p.m. Sunday in the University Auditorium. For information, call 392-9578.

The School of Music and Institute of Black Culture present a lecture recital entitled The Classical Piano Music of Composers of African Descent by concert pianist Raymond Jackson at 8 p.m. Sunday in the University Auditorium. For information, call 392-0223, Ext. 219.

The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. March 4 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. For information, call 392-5000 or 392-1900.

Film

The Reitz Union Cinema presents Dancer in the Dark at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. today, Thursday and Saturday-Monday in the Reitz Union Auditorium. Tickets are $2 for UF students and $3 for the general public. For information, call 392-1655.

As part of GatorNights, The Best Man will be shown at 9 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Friday in the Reitz Union Auditorium. For information, call 392-1655.

Special Events

Club Creole, the Haitian Student Organization at UF, presents the Annual Mr. & Miss Club Creole Pageant as part of Club Creole Week 2001. The pageant begins at 7 p.m. Friday in the Reitz Union Auditorium. For information, visit grove.ufl.edu/~creole.

As part of National Engineers Week, there will be an Engineering Extravaganza from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. today on the Reitz Union North lawn. For information, call 392-0994.

Financial Responsibility Enriching Everyone Week offers special events from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. today through Friday in Turlington Plaza. John Vischer will discuss investments at 5 p.m. today in 3032 Weimer Hall. For information, call 392-0815 or visit www.takealafreeway.org.

The Smathers Libraries announces the launch of the online reference service RefExpress, with a special demonstration for UF faculty from 1-4 p.m. Thursday in the Marriott Science Library, Room 107. RefExpress allows students to interact with librarians for help. For information, call 392-4919 or visit web.uf.lib.ufl.edu.

The College of Health and Human Performance presents a Career Fair and Intern Expo at 1 p.m. Friday in the Florida Gym. Registration is required. For information, call 392-0587 Ext. 1268.

Chemistry Nobel Prize Winner Speaks At UF

A Nobel Prize winner in chemistry will be one of the featured speakers at an international workshop on bioinformatics scheduled for later this month on the UF campus.

Herbert Hauptman, an expert in molecular structures and the 1985 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, will be among at least 50 speakers at the conference. Others will include experts in global optimization, statistics, computer science, computational neurobiology and neuroengineering. Major topics to be covered include genome analysis, phylogeny construction, molecular computing, drug design and learning theory.

The conference will take place in Room 232 of the Reitz Union Sunday - Tuesday. Hauptman's speech, entitled "Recent Advances in the Phase of X-ray Crystallography," is set for 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. For information, contact Panos Pardalos at 392-9011.

Rule Workshop To Be Held Tuesday If Requested

A Rule Development Workshop will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday in Reitz Union Room 346 if requested in writing by 5 p.m. on Monday. Persons wishing to discuss a particular rule must make their request in advance so that the necessary time can be in attendance. This is not a substitute for a rule hearing, which is held, if requested, later in the process after the proposed rule revisions are available. Requests must be submitted to 123 Tigert Hall.

Florida Election 2000 Conference Held Monday

Key participants in Florida's prognosticated 2000 Presidential election come together for a one-day UF conference Monday. The seminar, "Florida Election 2000: Insiders at the Intersection of Law, Politics and the Media," includes presentations from members of the legal teams for both former Vice President Al Gore and President George W. Bush, media representatives, members of the Governor's Elections Task force, state legislators, state officials and academicians.

Jon Mills, interim dean of the Levin College of Law and coordinator of the session, said participants "will examine the unique intersection of law, politics and the media, and the role of each in the unprecedented, ambiguous situation which dominated American life for more than 30 days following the November election."

The conference, which is open to the public, will begin at 8 a.m. Five panel sessions, with each lasting approximately 1 hour, are scheduled until conclusion at 4 p.m.

The law school will broadcast a live Webcast of the entire conference on www.law.ufl.edu/news/. It will prevent on-site overcrowding; chains and a curtailed-off area will be set up outside the auditorium so those unable to get in will be able to watch the WJXT-TV broadcast on large screens.

For information, visit www.law.ufl.edu/news/releases/010111.shtml.
UF Center Reaches Out To Minority Students

UF's Counseling Center now offers a new program that is a grant-based initiative funded out of the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The African-American Student Program for Improvement and Retention in Education, or ASPIRE, has been created to offer African-American students opportunities to enrich their academic, social, and personal lives while at school. Developed in response to the State of Florida's One Florida initiative, ASPIRE demonstrates UF's commitment to ensure a multicultural presence on campus.

ASPIRE efforts consist of offering groups, workshops, consultation and/or individual counseling emphasizing a wide range of issues. Some of these include math, science and technology confidence, academic success skills; career planning and exploration; personal issues; financial planning; preparation for graduate school; time and stress management; and adjustment to college. Research has shown that strengthening students' abilities to successfully manage many of these developmental issues while in college leads to enhanced student retention and academic success.

In addition to individual or group-focused support, ASPIRE extends services to student organizations, faculty and staff who are interested in consultation or outreach presentations tailored to benefit student success at UF. ASPIRE also collaborates with existing university programs that target retention efforts. The ASPIRE team consists of LaTrelle Jackson, Ed Delgado-Romero, Kelly Raman Onquiza, Alvin Lawrence and Cassie Hesler-Smith. For information, call 392-1575 or visit www.counsel.ufl.edu.

Moscow Festival Ballet Brings "Swan Lake" To Phillips Center Stage On Monday

The Moscow Festival Ballet will bring the tender tale of true love, Swan Lake, to the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Monday. Starling the finest dancers in the company, the former Soviet Union, including danc-ers from the Kiev and Bolshoi Ballets, the Moscow Festival Ballet is under the masterful direc-tion of Sergey Radchenko, the en-dary principal dancer of the Bolshoi. Radchenko founded the company in 1989 to bring to-gether all of the classic elements of Russian ballet.

Swan Lake is one of the great classical ballets. It tells the story of the alienated young Prince Siegfried, who discovers an enchanted lake where an evil sorcerer has put a spell upon young maid-en, turning them into beautiful swans. Siegfried is a desperate savior, upon the most beautiful swarm of all. Odette. Siegfried is overcome by the aura of evil in which she is trapped and vows to set the swans free.

He is soon thwarted by the sorcerer, who tricks him into marrying an im-poster, Odile. The role of Odile is consid-ered to be one of the most chal-lenging in ballet. In the end, love conquers all as Prince Siegfried overcomes the odds and rescues Odette and the swan maidens from the evil spell. A role that no power can stop those whose hearts are full of love.

A program notes lecture for Swan Lake begins at 7 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre and will be conducted by Howard Rothman, professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

For ticket information, call the Phillips Center box office at 392-ARTS. Rush tickets for seats in the balcony may be available for $10 at the center's box office the day of the performance.

The Spotlight on Student Scholarships

The Spotlight on Student Scholarship section of the University Digest provides information on scholarships and fellowships currently ac-cepting applications at the University of Florida.

The Center for African Studies offers summer fellowships to eligible graduate students for the intensive study of an Afri-can language. The awards include a personal stipend and tuition at the host institution. Some travel support may also be available. The deadline for applications is March 15. For information, contact Maria Cruz-Ngata at 392-2183 or via email at mgngate@africa.ufl.edu.

The James Madison Memorial Fellow-ship Foundation offers scholarships to graduating seniors who will be pursuing graduate study to be outstanding teachers of the U.S. Constitution. After earning a master's degree, each James Madison Fel-lower must teach American history, Ameri-can government, or social studies in grades seven-12 for no less than one year for each full academic year of study under the fellow-ship. Applications are due March 1. More information is available at www.jamadison.com.

The Center for Latin American Studies is accepting applications for the Charles W. and Barbara Filene Fellowship, which sup-port students pursuing a master's degree in Latin American studies. Applicants are funded the summer field research in Brazil, the Tropical Conservation and Development, or TCD, Graduate Fellowship, which supports graduate and doctoral study in various disciplines; and the TCD Field Research Grant, which provides funding for graduate student field research in the tropics. All applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on March 2. For information, visit www.latam.ufl.edu.

The Alice Charlotte Hogsett Award of $300 will be awarded for the best paper, poster, or thesis/project focusing on study abroad. The award will be given to students enrolled in any college at UF, and graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to receive the award. The deadline for submission is March 15. For information, visit 3324 Turington Hall or call 392-3365.

Judith Brown Women's Liberation Leadership Endowment scholarships are available in the amount of $100 to $300. This tuition scholarship is for graduate or undergraduate students at the University of Florida who have experience and com-mitted feminist activism. Deadline is March 15. For information, call 392-3365.

The Center for Women's Studies at UF offers the Irene Thompson Scholarship to honor outstanding undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a course of study focusing on women/gender. The award ranges from $500-$1,000, depend-ing upon the growth of the endowment each year. Graduate and graduate stu-dents enrolled at the University of Florida are eligible for the award. Deadline is March 15. For information, call 392-3365.

Rotary Scholarship applications due March 23, are now being accepted for Ambassadorsial Scholarships for the 2002-2003 academic year. The scholarship is for study overseas. Applications are available on the Web at www.rotary.org. The local UF contact, Virginia Maurer, can be reached at maurer@dalle.cba.ufl.edu. A set of frequently asked questions and answers for the Rotary Scholarship is available on the Web page at www.honors.ufl.edu/scholarships/prestigious.html.

To submit your scholarship information to the University Digest, please email a brief paragraph detailing the amount of the scholarship award, basic requirements for the award; the application deadline; and a Web site or phone number to call for more information to digest@aa.ufl.edu one week prior to publication. Call 392-0186 for information.

Timey Degree Info Now Available Online at ISIS

Registration for the summer and fall semesters will begin on March 26. For the past 10 years, the university has been offering a degree audit to undergraduate students a few weeks prior to the beginning of the registration period.

With the capabilities available on ISIS, www.isis.ufl.edu, UF will no longer mail a printed copy of the degree audit. A mailed audit is not as current as the on-line audit because of the time needed to process, print, and mail the audit. The degree audit can come from at faculty and staff who are interested in consultation or outreach presentations tailored to benefit student success at UF. ASPIRE also collaborates with existing university programs that target retention efforts. The ASPIRE team consists of LaTrelle Jackson, Ed Delgado-Romero, Kelly Raman Onquiza, Alvin Lawrence and Cassie Hesler-Smith. For information, call 392-1575 or visit www.counsel.ufl.edu.

The University International Center, or UFIC, is offering 88 study abroad scholarships totaling $94,500. UFIC has teamed up with the College of Liberal Arts and Science, the Daniel Sinclair Breddahl Scholar-ship Fund, the UF Utrecht Program, the Marco Sauer Scholarship Fund, the UF Hon-or's Program and the Arabic Language Stud-ies Program to offer scholarships for study abroad programs. Scholarships are avail-able for Summer 2001 as well as for Fall, Spring and Academic Year 2001-2002.

Seventy-nine summer scholarships will be awarded to students attending UF approved programs. Last summer, more than 600 UF students participated in 130 different study abroad programs. UFIC will award up to $2,000 to students attending approved summer program and $1,000 to 10 students attending any sponsored UF summer program. The UF Honors Program Summer Study Abroad Scholarship offers $1,000 to as many as six eligible students. Also, seven new $700 scholarships will be awarded for summer study in Utrecht through the Utrecht Scholarship Fund. The application deadline for summer scholarships is March 1. Five academic year and four semester scholarships will be awarded.

UFIC has teamed up with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Daniel Sinclair Breddahl Scholarship Fund to award two $4,000 scholarships; the Honors Program Keith R. Legg Academic Year Scholarship will award one award per academic year; and continue the Marco Sauer Scholarship Fund award two academic year scholarships of $1,000 each. In conjunction with CLAS and UFIC, the Bredahl Fund will award two $2,000 scholarships to minority students. CLAS will award one $2,000 semester Fall or Spring scholarship. The application deadline for Fall, Spring and Academic Year scholarships is April 2.
Dassler Named to USA Today Academic Team

UF senior and English major Brian Dassler has been named to the third team of the All-USA Academic Team sponsored by USA Today.

Dassler, who is minoring in secondary education, was one of 682 students nominated by their institutions. Dassler’s interest in education and equality is demonstrated with his service on the Education Plan in UF’s Admissions Task Force and as chairman of UF’s One Florida Task Force.

Students were considered in a two-step process for the honor based on grades, activities, leadership and how they use their intellectual skills outside the classroom. The first team consists of 20 students, while the second and third teams named 40 students as representatives of all outstanding undergraduates.

Dassler is a frequent speaker about the consequences of Florida’s race-neutral university admissions policies and has conducted research through the University Scholars Program on that topic. He also has served as student staff director of Preview, the freshman orientation program and as coordinator of the First Year Florida extended orientation course.

TwoPass Promotion Ends on Feb. 28

Faculty and staff wishing to receive their free TwoPass for a full year admission to Silver Springs and Wild Waters must do so by Feb. 28, the last day of the promotion. The passes provide a year’s unlimited admission to the Silver Springs and Wild Waters theme parks, including special events and concerts at no additional charge.

In addition, faculty and staff can purchase TwoPases for themselves and family members at $34.95 plus tax for each pass. Students can purchase TwoPases for themselves and family members at $24.95 plus tax for each pass.

This offer is extended to all UF and Santa Fe Community College faculty, staff and students. Persons must show a Gatorl. or ID card when obtaining a TwoPass and purchasing passes for family members. Family members need not be present when their gift certificates for TwoPases are purchased.

TwoPases may be obtained at the Silver Springs guest relation’s booth from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Gift Certificates for TwoPases may be obtained from noon to 8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday at the Southwest Recreation Center.

University of Florida Police Department, Officers Honored For Their Dedication To Child Safety

The University of Florida Police Department is committed to reducing injuries and death due to incorrectly installed child safety seats. Recently in Alachua County, two child safety seat check-points were conducted.

Of the 70 life saving seats checked, only four were properly installed. It is estimated that nationwide, only 20 percent of all child safety seats are installed correctly.

Recently, Sgt. Walt Hamby of UPD instructed and assisted George and Stephanie Kolb in installing a child safety seat before their son Jacob was born. During the Christmas Holidays, Stephanie Kolb, mother of two, and Jacob were traveling on I-75 when Kolb was forced off the road by a careless driver. Stephanie lost control of her SUV, slid off the highway and was dragging her vehicle two times. Kolb and Jacob’s grandmother were wearing their seatbelts and received only minor injuries. Little Jacob received no injuries, as he was securely belted in his child safety seat that remained securely attached through the entire crash.

For their efforts to educate and assist the public and for their dedication to child safety, the Alachua County Safe Kids Coalition and Shands Children’s Hospital recognized the University of Florida Police Department, Sgt. Walt Hamby, Officer Angela Mandrell, Pam Craig, Stephanie Kolb, Sergeant Walt Hamby and Dr. Morya Willis. (Photo by Lt. Nick Vellis, UPD community services)

In a ceremony at the Kirby Smith/Alachua County School Board Building on Feb. 15, UPD officers were recognized for their instruction in installing child safety seats. From left to right: George Kolb and Jacob Kolb; Officer Angela Mandrell, Pam Craig, Stephanie Kolb, Sergeant Walt Hamby and Dr. Morya Willis.

Gonzalez-Rothi Named President of Society

University of Florida speech pathologist Leslie Gonzalez-Rothi is slated to become president of the International Neuropsychological Society, a non-profit, international organization that unites researchers from various disciplines contributing to the understanding of brain-behavior relationships.

Gonzalez-Rothi, a professor of neurology in the College of Medicine and program director of the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center at the Malcolm Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center, is serving as president-elect until next February, when she will assume a one-year term as president.

Gonzalez-Rothi is the first speech pathologist to be selected for the position since the organization’s founding in 1967. Her election was announced on Feb. 13 in Chicago at the group’s annual meeting.

Send Us Your News!

University Digest is produced by UF News & Public Affairs. Digest is published weekly in the Independent Florida Alligator and paid for at actual advertising rates to communicate official notices and important information to students, faculty and staff. Digest publishes information on campus events funded in part by UF Student Government. Below are some options for academic departments and student groups wanting to publicize events and news.

Publishing Information in Digest
To publish your event information, send it at least two weeks in advance to:

Jennifer Doody
Editor, University Digest
P.O. Box 110775
Gainesville, Fla. 32611-3075
Phone: (352) 392-0186
Fax: (352) 392-0353
E-mail: digest@ufl.edu

Marquee Signs
To post information on the electronic signs at 34th Street and University Avenue, fax your title, date, time and location to (352) 392-2250 by noon on the Tuesday before the Thursday the sign is to be posted.

Guest Columns
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1 SHOWCASE THEATRE

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nicholas Lewis

CROSSWORD

1. Nonfastoral
2. Donor
3. A Fargoed fruit
4. To be in, To tour
5. A car's body
6. Secret scheme
7. "Two... did not live..."
8. Defunct
9. An acre
10. Raised the quality
11. Hereditary unit
12. Game similar to the 1000
13. Underwater
14. Off-the-wall
15. Hospital supplies
16. A past time in
Nature
17. Texas
18. Perpendicular to
19. A gaffe
20. A 3. A.A.S. in
21. Spiritual direction
22. Most, as... is
23. An actor
24. Jerman Keim
25. Musical with "The..."
26. Singer Lopez
27. Call response
28. Hand... a punch
29. Idiot
30. Shrink, as to an
31. Bedding beam
32. A's Uncle
33. A composition
34. Service
35. Bright light
36. Rocket fuel
37. Yves Saint
38. Antoine's
39. "Carnegie"
40. A deal
41. A's car
42. A's car
43. A's car
44. A's car
45. A's car
46. A's car
47. A's car
48. A's car
49. A's car
50. A's car
51. A's car
52. A's car
53. A's car
54. A's car
Sophomore leads UF to second title

The 23rd-ranked UF men’s golf team won their second consecutive UNF Mercedes-Benz Collegiate on Tuesday at the Sawgrass Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach. The Gators shot a first round total of 284. The second round brought more of the same as they also shot a 284. UF won the 15-team tournament with a three round score of 840. Junior Udonis Haslem, who struggled with fouls against Tennessee, will be an important component in containing Lockhart.

Donovan said Haslem and Lockhart, who are similar in stature, have a lot more in common.

"Both guys are physical, with a strong presence in the frontcourt," Donovan said. "They both have the ability to score. They’re powerful. They make people around them better."

Despite the comparisons, Donovan went on to say UF’s style of play could keep the team is senior forward Rahim Lockhart, who led the Gators with a stroke.

281 for a three round 15th finish. Also playing well for the Gators was senior Nick Gilliam who finished in a tie for 17th place with a three round total of 228 to finish tied for 54th.

The UF golf team will travel to Las Vegas, Nev., to take part in the Las Vegas Intercollegiate March 9 through 11 hosted by UNLV at the Desert Inn Country Club.

-Senior Camilo Villegas ended the tournament with a 69 to total 214 strokes and a 13th finish. Also playing well for the Gators was senior Nick Gilliam who finished in a tie for 17th place for a total of 216 and junior Ben Banks shot a three round total of 228 to finish tied for 54th.

"Obviously Lockhart is a guy that plays around the basket, so is Udonis," Donovan said. "Right now, I think matchup-wise with the way we play defense, pressing and everything else, I think there could be a lot of different guys on Lockhart."

Lockhart, who leads the team in scoring and rebounding, has caused a number of problems for opponents this season.

Junior Udonis Haslem, who struggled with fouls against Tennessee, will be an important component in containing Lockhart.

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Baseball drops first game of Winthrop series

By David Fox
Alligator Writer

The UF baseball team suffered a let down as visiting Winthrop defeated the Gators 11-7 on Tuesday night. The unranked Eagles (6-8), who were riding a five-game winning streak, came into McKethan Stadium with the goal of upsetting No. 24 UF (4-5). They accomplished that goal but were not surprised.

"We weren't intimidated coming in here, because we know if we play our game we can play anyone," Winthrop coach Joe Hudak said. "We were fortunate we jumped on them early tonight."

Coach Andy Lopez said, despite Hart's performance, he was pleased to see Hart bow ligaments.

The unranked Eagles, leading the Eagles to a run in the fifth, surrendered seven, seven. However, it was Eagles pitcher Ben Thurmond who pitched seven innings, giving up two earned runs and striking out seven.

Winthrop right fielder Todd Leathers hit a three-run home run off Rojas in the third inning, leading the Eagles to a 7-0 lead.

Rojas said he did not think going in that he was overlooking Winthrop, but in retrospect he may have been caught off guard by them because in the end 'the proof is in the pudding.'

The Gators helped Winthrop score in the first three innings by throwing two wild pitches and committing two errors. "You deserve to get beat when you make those kinds of errors," Lopez said. "There's no way we should be chalking 11 runs. That's ridiculous."

UF's pitching woes put it in a deep hole early, but the Gators did show life offensively in the late innings.

Second baseman Aaron Davidson doubled in two runs, and pinch hitter David Klebonis batted in one run in the eighth inning.

Third baseman Pat Osborn then led off the ninth with a solo home run.

Sobieraj earned his first RBI of the season, scoring first baseman Ryan Shealy who reached on his first career triple.

The Gators have a chance to avoid a sweep today in today's 5 p.m. game at McKethan Stadium.

UF junior Jimmy Ramshaw and Winthrop senior Jeremy Hераuf will start.

David Fox can be reached at dfox@alligator.org

Softball sweeps Hofstra in midweek doubleheader

By Jason Pfafundi
Alligator Writer

Behind two strong performances on the mound and execution at the plate, the UF softball team swept a doubleheader against Hofstra on Tuesday.

Senior Renee Landry pitched 6 2/3 innings in the nightcap, allowing two runs on six hits, while striking out six. Her record improves to 4-1 on the season.

"She threw some great pitches," Coach Karen Johns said. "Her change up is starting to come and her rise ball is back. I think she is throwing some good pitches.

The Gators scored five runs in their third inning of the nightcap.

Freshman Jenelle Garner got hit by a pitch to lead off the inning and advanced to second on a single by senior Ashley Boone. Freshman Mylin Prieto singled to left field to load the bases. Freshman Stacy Rosen walked in Garner, giving the Gators their first run.

A wild pitched scored Prieto and senior Emily Marino followed with a two-run single by sophomore Ashley Boone.

"The Gators scored five runs in their third inning in the nightcap," Coach Karen Johns said.

Left fielder Lisa Torres singled and got to second base on a sacrifice bunt. She advanced to third on a fielder's choice. Shortstop Heather Broussard hit a 3-2 pitch over the right field fence to bring the Pride to within one, but their scoring ended there.

"The Pride hit her too hard in the first three innings but she said that she made an adjustment," Johns said. "I made sure I focused on where my ball was being placed and tried not to leave it up in the zone," Moore said.

Moore said the ability to settle down and not allow any more runs gives her confidence going in to this weekend's tournament at Arizona. Garner, who started at shortstop in both games, had four hits and three RBI on the night and raised her average to a team-leading .462.

The Gators leave on Thursday for Arizona, where they will play in the Wildcat Invitational. "We are going to play some good competition in a really great softball environment," Moore said. "The experience of doing that is going to be wonderful."

Jason Pfafundi can be reached at jpfaf@ufl.edu

Coaches excitement leads Gators to SECs

By Jack Johnston
Alligator Writer

UF swimming and diving coach Gregg Troy may be a little more excited when the Gators begin competition today.

Troy and the rest of UF's swimming and diving team are competing at the Southeastern Conference Championships, which begin today and run through Friday, at the Alabama Aquatic Center in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

"It's my favorite time of year, when all the preparation and hard work really starts to pay off," Troy said.

The No. 9 UF men's squad will face some formidable conference opponents in the form of No. 5 Auburn and No. 2 Tennessee.

"The SEC is definitely the premier showcase of swimming talent in the country," Troy said.

For the men's team, this meet represents the last chance to qualify for the NCAA Tournament, which starts March 22 in College Station, Texas. Two Gators, Ricardo Monasterio and Greg Reeves, have clinched individual spots at the national event, while Monasterio looks to defend his 2000 SEC title in the 1650-meter freestyle.

Even though both swimmers have already secured a place at the national meet, their coach expects a strong showing in Alabama.

"They're both seniors, they've both been here before. I'm quite confident that they will swim well," Troy said.

If the men hope to have a shot at the SEC title they will need a total team effort. Troy is looking for a breakout performance from former Brazilian Olympic Carlos Jayme. The freshman is coming off a season-best second place finish in the 100-yard freestyle against Tennessee.

"Jayme has been performing on a very high level of late. I expect big things from him," Troy said.

On the women's side of the pool, Troy said he believes that in spite of the Gators' relative inexperience and youth, they should be very competitive at the conference meet.

"I would consider us the dark horse on the women's side," Troy said. "We are very strong at the distance and freestyle events, but a little weak at the relays."

The women are led by three-time All-American Leah Martindale. Martindale, who has represented her home country of Barbados in two Olympics, is looking forward to her third SEC meet.

"I'll approach it just like any other meet," Martindale said. "No worries.

Jack Johnston can be reached at nationonceagain@yahoo.com
**Postseason talk begins with UF’s final stretch**

By Jason Triebwasser

Two weeks remain in the college basketball regular season, and with that comes the annual controversy of who belongs where in postseason play. Talk of seedings, bubbles bursting and controversies fill the air.

But for the UF men’s basketball team, which is a virtual lock to make the NCAA Tournament, the buzzwords are all about focusing on taking one game at a time.

“We just have to go out and worry about ourselves,” sophomore Brett Nelson said.

This stretch of games for UF will be pivotal in determining not only the Southeastern Conference regular-season championship, but also their seeding in both the SEC and NCAA Tournaments.

Senior Brent Wright said that the team is not focused on their NCAA seeding, but that they want their play to speak for itself when it comes time for Selection Sunday on March 11.

“We want to get a No. 1 seed,” Wright said. “We figure if we go through the next two weeks and win these games, we will have a nice seed. We’ll be where we want to be.”

**Soleful inspiration**

When you see UF center Udonis Haslem bent over at the waist before a game with his hands on his knees and his eyes fixed on the ground, you might think he is frustrated or disappointed.

But he is not. He is looking at his feet, or more specifically, the hand-written messages on his shoes that he scrubs all over every time he gets his.

Among them are the initials of his two-year-old son, Kedonis, and his late stepbrother Sam, as well as “Da Bot,” a reference to his hometown of Miami.

“They are just little messages to remind me of where I am from and who I play for,” Haslem said.

Haslem said he talks to Sam, who died in 1999, prior to every game. The junior credits his success in both life and basketball to him.

“Before every game, I look down at my shoes and say a little prayer to give thanks, because obviously we are all blessed to be out here playing this game,” Haslem said.

**Tough Homestretch**

As of the most recent national rankings, the Gators are set to make school history by playing three ranked opponents in consecutive home games: No. 12 Mississippi, No. 14 Alabama and No. 13 Kentucky.

Jason Triebwasser can be reached at triebwasser@alligator.org

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**Father, fiancee special part of Brice’s life**

From page 23

**BRICE**

not allowed outside for more than a year. But the disease did have an upside: Brice was exposed to Rocky Balboa.

“We rented him Rocky and this kid could recite the lines of Rocky like you couldn’t imagine,” Frank Brice said.

When Brice grew a couple years older, he would jokingly act out the part at family functions—complete with shadow boxing. Frank Brice said he remembers that Keith was a sensitive child. His mom Jeanie added that she still thinks he is. Whatever the case might be, Frank Brice said he and his son have a close relationship, a relationship that is important to him.

“He would do anything I asked him to do, and I would do anything for him,” Frank Brice said. “We talk probably at least once a day or maybe every other day, and that’s pretty special.”

Along with his relationship with his father and family, another special part of Brice’s life is his fiancee, who he has been engaged to for more than a year.

“That is what I consider my greatest accomplishment, the relationship I have with my fiance and the relationship I have with my family,” Brice said.

His fiancee graduated from UF this past summer with a degree in business administration. After this baseball season, Keith hopes to marry her and go from there.

Right now, he said it isn’t clear where he and his future wife will live. It’s something the couple will talk about.

With the better part of his college career behind him, Brice has gone through plenty of adversity at UF. From his redshirt freshman season, to last year when he tore an elbow ligament, Brice has gone through it all.

And Brice, like Jimmy Buffet, does not claim that it’s anyone’s fault. But he knows how to keep things in perspective.

“Family and friends that is what it is and that is lines of all about,” Brice said. “You know these last two couple of years have been hard with the surgeries and stuff like that. Where if you have people around you that you love, then you go out and do it for them.”

J.P. DeGance can be reached at jpendage@alligator.org

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**Gators’ injury list longer with Bell, Cardenas**

By Seth Traub

Alligator Writer

With two games remaining in the regular season, the ninth ranked UF women’s basketball team is going through a slump.

The Gators have lost two of three games—barely winning the third. And from the look of UF’s roster, the light at the end of the tunnel keeps getting dimmer.

Junior Monique Cardenas is one of five players sidelined with injuries. Cardenas suffered a deep leg bruise on the final play of Sunday’s game.

Danielle Rappaport / Alligator Staff

Junior Meadow Overstreet suffered a deep bruise to her right tibia on the final play of Sunday’s game. She went to the hospital for X-rays following the game but nothing serious was found.

Both will be at home with some pain.

Senior Misty Knight, who likely will start Thursday against Louisiana State, said she and the team know what to do.

“We still realize that we are not down and out, and that we have a lot to play for right now,” Knight said. “We have to suck it up and fight through it all. And with Tombi out, our team leader and emotional leader, Tamar [Stocks] and I will have to step it up.”

Last week juniors Brandi McCain and Naomi Mobley missed chronic injuries and remain listed as day to day.

McCain missed Thursday’s game because of inflammation in her right heel. Mobley separated her right shoulder during the Tennessee game Feb. 11, and it has been extremely sore since. She played 29 minutes against Mississippi Feb. 15, but scored just 3 points—all from the free-throw line.

That means four of UF’s starters possibly could be out for Thursday’s game against No. 13 LSU.

The Gators have one more win to solidify either the No. 2 or No. 3 seed, depending on how Georgia does in its final two games against Alabama and Vanderbilt.

LSU needs to win the rest of its games to make UF the No. 4 seed. If the Tigers don’t, they may find themselves having to play a first-round game.

If the Commodores win out, and LSU does not, Vanderbilt holds the tiebreaker between the two and would earn the bye.

Seth Traub can be reached at straub@alligator.org

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**Conference seeding**

UF already has clinched a first-round bye in the Southeastern Conference Tournament, but its final two regular-season games will weigh heavily in determining what bracket it will be in.

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If the Commodores win out, and LSU does not, Vanderbilt holds the tiebreaker between the two and would earn the bye.
UF, Rebels: Different roads to matchup

By Bart O'Connell
Alligator Staff Writer

In terms of adversity, there is no comparison between No. 7 UF and No. 12 Mississippi - at least this year. While the Gators (18-5, 8-4 Southern) have seen their players go through a total of four surgeries and miss several games, the Rebels have had a smoother run through the SEC thus far. But that was not always the case.

With both teams playing some of their best basketball of the season, a pivotal division showdown is set for tonight at 7 in the O'Connell Center.

Last season, Mississippi (21-4, 9-3 SEC) seldom found success. A 5-11 team in the SEC West a year ago, the Rebels did not garner much respect in the preseason and had to go 11-0 to start the year to gain national recognition.

UF players, however, were not among those surprised by Mississippi's success.

Junior Teddy Dupay said the Rebels of last year had all the makings for a turnaround.

"They lost a lot of tough games last year, ours being one of them," Dupay said. "They weren't far off last year. I don't think it's any surprise they're having as good a season as they are."

The Rebels have been just as strong in the conference as opposed to out of it. They possess one of only two victories by any SEC team against Kentucky and are 4-1 against the East thus far. UF, however, has played either of the top two teams in the West, is 4-0.

Sophomores Brett Nelson said it's no secret that Mississippi wins its games on defense.

"They're really aggressive, get-in-your-face, and they play really tough defense," Nelson said. "A really hard-nosed team."

It will be a classic match of strengths: The conferences top-ranked offense in UF against the conferences top-ranked defense in Mississippi.

Of all the Rebels defensive strengths, the ability to stop the three-point shot may be the most important advantage for Mississippi.

The Rebels have allowed a SEC-low 29.2 three-point field goal percentage. By contrast, Nelson currently leads the SEC with a 47 percent success rate from behind the arc.

Coach Billy Donovan said both teams are always the case.

"They do an outstanding job guarding the three-point line," Donovan said. "They're disruptive with their defense. They'll get out and pressure the ball and they always play good hard-nosed defense."

Brice carries Buffett-like attitude to mound

By J.P. DeGance
Alligator Staff Writer

He isn't nibbling on sponge cake, or watching the sun bake all the tourists covered with oil.

He is strumming his six-string - but probably not on his front porch swing.

More than likely, he is sitting in his apartment while escaping his world of baseball and academics by playing a bit of Jimmy Buffett, among other artists.

Senior pitcher Keith Brice, a Parrot Head of sorts, enjoys playing his guitar to classic Buffett melodies.

The choice of Buffett is fitting for a native South Floridian, who enjoys sports of the outdoor variety - deep sea fishing and hunting.

Maybe Buffett's reputation of enjoying the occasional moments of peaceful solitude is another reason for the Miami native's love of the singer.

"Keith is a real quiet person," said Frank Brice, Keith's father, a fellow in guitars and Buffett aficionado. "We would just have to drag stuff out of him."

"He's very humble. But he is confident in his ability," his father said. "He is not one to walk into a room and say, 'Hey I'm Keith Brice and I did this and I am going to do this.'"

"This nature doesn't mean he has less of a competitive drive though," Coach Andy Lopez said.

"He's a quiet guy, but he's very competitive," Lopez said. "He wants to excel in everything he does. He is one of the finest young men that I've ever coached."

This quiet and humble Gator has not always had a healthy run through life - apparent by his return this year from a season-ending elbow injury.

One of the first setbacks occurred long before college, even before high school. As a toddler, Brice faced a disease that was quite similar to Leukemia. It was so similar that doctors actually thought he was suffering from the deadly ailment.

For about two weeks, Brice's family did not know whether the four-year-old had Leukemia or not. "They had him in the oncology unit and they finally determined that it wasn't Leukemia," Frank Brice said as he added that that was probably the happiest moment in their life with Keith.

However, Brice did have a viral blood disease that caused him to bruise very easily, because of a lack of platelets. The disease could have killed him if he fell too hard. A moderately hard bump on the head and the Miami native could have bled to death. He was on steroids for about a year to treat the condition.

Because of his severe state, Brice was always the case.

"I did not know that... Thirty current and former members of the UF swimming and diving team were named to the 2001 Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll released on Monday.