By Staci Zavattaro
Alligator Writer

A UF adjunct professor was found dead Friday in her Gainesville apartment, apparently beaten to death with a baseball bat.

Her 18-year-old adopted son, Gainesville High senior Tavares Eugene Williams, was arrested late Friday and charged with the murder of Barbara Roth, a member of the Political Science Department and a research analyst at The Center for Studies in Humanities and Social Studies.

Gainesville Police spokesman Keith Kameg said Roth's colleagues called the apartment manager, who then called maintenance. When maintenance workers received no response from inside the apartment, they proceeded to enter the home and found Roth lying on the floor.

According to an arrest report, Roth was dead on arrival and appeared to have trauma to her head and side of her face.

Kameg said officers, detectives and forensics units all responded to the call. Officers found that Roth's car was missing, which was "out of character."

Williams arrived at the scene at about 5:15 p.m. Friday, driving his mother's car, Kameg said.

According to an arrest report, after being charged with murder and hearing his Miranda rights, Williams said he didn't know anything about the incident and appearing to be a victim.

"He told officers he didn't know what happened," Kameg said.

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Students learn, compete at Swing Dance Mania

By April Frawley
Alligator Writer

Ashley Bartczak and Bob Dickerson, both UF freshmen, did not know they would be swing dancing in a competition when they went to Swing Dance Mania on Saturday night.

When the competition was announced, the pair was one of the first 16 couples that made their way to the center of Norman Gym. The swinging began and one by one, couples were eliminated until only four remained. Bartczak and Dickerson were crowned number four.

The winner was decided by a show of applause, which at first resulted in a tie between couples one and four. On the second attempt, couple four won.

"We just learned the stuff we were doing last week," said Bartczak, who with Dickerson received two Blockbuster gift cards and two pencils as a prize.

The swing dance competition was just one part of the second annual Swing Dance Mania sponsored by the UF Student Honors Organization.

UF engineering junior David Duncan, event organizer and SHO president, said this year’s event drew a bigger crowd than last year. Almost 330 people attended last year, whereas more than 330 dancers were present Saturday.

This event began with a free lesson given by Duncan and lib-
erals art and sciences junior Abbigail Macalister. The pair spent about 40 minutes showing the crowd a basic step and turn.

"Slow, slow, quick, quick," Macalister called out as the dancers repeated her steps.

After the lesson, beginners practiced their new moves and experienced dancers showed off their skills to songs such as "Rockin Robin" and "Jump Jive and Wall."

In the middle of a 10-person circle in the back of the gym, UF sophomore Alyson Niemeyer attempted to teach other couples flips she learned while on the dance team in high school.

With her hands wrapped tightly around partner Jonathan Langley’s neck, Niemeyer jumped in one quick movement and locked her legs around his waist. She leaned back, swung her arms down to the ground and did a handstand.

"We don’t dance," Niemeyer said when she got up. "We just flip."

Sophomore Sandy Morrison and liberal arts and sciences ju-
nior Adam Mauresse, both beginners, watched Niemeyer in amazement and began attempting the flips themselves. A few times the couple almost had the move down. And a few times they almost wound up on the floor.

"You see somebody else doing it and they’re really good," Mauresse said. "It makes you want to do it, too."

Not all of the attendees were impressed with the event.

Chris Buck, a 25-year-old teacher from Orlando and a swing aficionado, came with some friends who live in Gainesville because he said there are not many swing dance events anymore.

Buck and a friend competed in the competition and made it to the final four with Bartczak and Dickerson. But unlike the winners, he said they were not trying to win, but rather to be disqualified.

Duncan had instructed the dancers not to do flips during the competition, but Buck did them anyway.

Buck, who has been dancing for four years, said lessons cannot teach anyone how to swing dance. He said swing dance is intrinsically different from freestyle than some people think.

"Everybody treats [swing dancing] like it’s memorized moves," Buck said. "You think you have to do it one exact way, it’s going to take you eight years to learn it."

Gainesville prospers in recession

UF faces job cuts despite city’s economic success

By Michelle Aldridge
Alligator Writer
maldridge@alligator.org

Gainesville’s economy continues to prosper despite the national recession, faring better than the average Florida city, local economic officials say.

Marco Oliveri, the vice president of the Gainesville Council for Economic Outreach, said Florida has a 2.4 percent unemployment rate—a rate he says is the lowest in the state.

He credits Gainesville’s immunity to the recession to the presence of UF and Shands Healthcare and the number of people they employ.

But UF—the city’s economic rock—is facing employment troubles of its own.

The university is researching ways to save money in all areas of its budget, and some campus employees have been laid off.

UF Provost David Colburn wrote in an e-mail that while no tenured faculty members have been dismissed, some adjunct professors have been laid off.

"We hope there will be no more layoffs," he said. "It does appear that the Florida economy is beginning to improve, and we hope that will allow the Legislature to restore some of the reductions we received this year."

In the meantime, other areas of the university are looking for ways to conserve money, said Ed Poppell, UF vice president for Administrative Affairs.

"We will avoid layoffs at all costs," Poppell said, but added UF is under a hiring freeze for all non-critical positions.

He said the budget especially has been hard to meet this year.

It costs UF about $72,000 for power each day, Poppell said, and with research projects, people and animals demanding stable conditions, the price of utilities can not be easily reduced.

"Not only am I getting a budget cut, I’m also having to pay more for utilities," he said.

Other UF expenses have grown since the events of Sept. 11, including security staff increases for large events and more expenses concerning environmental health and safety.

Hoping to save wherever it can, UF has had to look closely at every small, regular action, Poppell said.

Last week the director of UF’s Physical Plant Division, David O’Brien, issued a memorandum explaining service reductions that could help the plant cut their spending.

By Feb. 1, the division hopes to reduce basic services such as emptying trash bins three times a week instead of every day and vacuuming only twice a month.

"We must reduce the number of assigned custodians, resulting in a reduced level of day-to-day services," O’Brien said.

To do this, as employees leave, their positions—unless critical—will not be filled.

The physical plant reductions are just one of the ways UF is cutting back services temporarily, Poppell said.

He said he hopes once the budget cuts get managed in the Florida Legislature, UF can get back to normal, as it was before the recession.

"Now the cuts are really extreme for us," he said. "This campus] gets intense use. We can not be sustained ... at this level for long."

Former state judge dies of lung cancer

By Diana Moskowitz
Alligator Staff Writer
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TALLAHASSEE—Former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Alan C. Sundberg died late Friday in Jacksonville following a battle with lung cancer. He was 68.

Widely known for writing the court’s decision allowing cameras and recording devices in all state courthouses, he served in Florida’s highest court for seven years before retiring to private practice.

"As one of Florida’s foremost civic leaders for more than three decades, Justice Sundberg was an example and a source of inspiration to all of us," Gov. Jeb Bush wrote in a statement. "His commitment to serving the people of Florida will be greatly missed."

"Our prayers and sympathies go out to his family and friends."

The Florida native received his bachelor’s degree from Florida State University in 1965 and his law degree from Harvard University School of Law in 1968. Sundberg practiced law in the St. Petersburg area for 17 years before then-Gov. Rubin Askew named him to the Supreme Court.

After years away from the court, he returned to FSU in 1997 and served as its general counsel for three years.

Sundberg returned in 2001 when Bush appointed him to the university’s governing board.

His son, William, said that while focus often fell on Sundberg’s legal accomplishments, what affected people most was his unpretentious nature.

"Despite all his positives, what made him special was his common touch," the Tallahassee attorney said. "He never thought he was better than anyone else."
New church targets young people

By Laura Davis
Alligator Writer

People filed into the theater under white letters that read "Black Hawk Down," but no one was there to see the war movie. They were there to witness the first service of a new Christian church targeted at young people.

Common Ground Community Church had its first service Sunday morning in Gator Cinemas in the Oaks Mall Plaza to the sound of modern music and a largely warm reaction.

Common Ground, founded by the Rev. Matthew Mitchell, has no building to call its own. Mitchell and his wife, Lisa, run the church out of their Gainesville home. They rent out the theater Sunday mornings for worship service.

The church is aimed at the Generation-X group, Mitchell said. "We are really trying to reach people who wouldn't typically go to church," he said.

A band complete with drums and electric guitar led the congregation with selections from contemporary artists, such as U2 and Lifehouse.

Larry Fiegland, 25, a member who helped found the church in September 2001, said the music is part of the appeal and helps bring in people who would not normally go to church.

UF sophomore Katie Reid usually attends a more traditional Christian church.

"I didn't really like hearing the same music you hear on the radio at church," she said. "When I go to church, I like to sing to hymns and other older Christian songs."

Jennifer Wise, a sophomore, heard about the church through her brother and sister-in-law who are members.

"I like how it's not really formal," said Wise. "I like how it's real and everybody's here to serve [God]."

Sophomore Aimee White and agriculture junior Hannah Snyder said they tried Common Ground Community Church because they are looking for a church in Gainesville to attend regularly.

"Their whole purpose was to demonstrate God's love to everyone," Snyder said. "I think that should be the main purpose of church."

Of the 45 Southern Baptist churches in the Baptist Campus Ministry, which is concentrated mostly in Alachua County, Common Ground is the only church that is "purely contemporary," said Wayne Harvey, director of missions for the Santa Fe River Baptist Association.

"That's not to say this church is better than the traditional appeal," he said. "It's just different."

Though Common Ground is funded mostly by Mitchell and his wife, to a lesser degree, by member donations, the Southern Baptist Convention does provide Mitchell's salary.

The Southern Baptist Convention is willing to help because they want to spread Christianity in any way they can, Mitchell said.

"The reality is a lot of churches are dying," he said. "The best way to have churches grow is to just start new ones."

Common Ground will hold its next service in Gator Cinemas on Sunday, Feb. 17 at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 372-4032 or visit www.theground.org.
It's the size of a tennis ball. Billy Bonnette goes numb. Partly because he isn't sure what to think about the news from his doctors, and partly because nurses are prepping him for a different surgery than he came to the hospital to have.

Billy, 66, originally went to Shands Hospital to have his gallbladder removed. His doctor in Ocala said gallstones were causing Billy to feel sick. Gallbladder surgery would fix it, she said.

Doctors, preparing for Billy's procedure, ran a long tube down his throat to examine his esophagus — what they saw would change Billy's life. Growing in his stomach was a tumor almost the size of a tennis ball.

Billy had cancer.

Instead of gallbladder surgery, doctors removed a third of Billy's stomach that day — only the first step in a long treatment process including radiation and chemotherapy. During his treatment, Billy will live in the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, which provides cancer patients with free lodging while they undergo outpatient treatment at Shands.

Billy is just one of 47 cancer patients staying at the Hope Lodge. These patients come from different backgrounds, different cities and countries, different religions and are different ages, but cancer brought them all to the lodge. Cancer bonds them together.

**BILLY**

Sun streaks across the Hope Lodge dining room as Billy and his wife Marlene finish their breakfast. Billy faces away from the sun and the light casts a glow through the tips of his buzz-cut hair. As he eats, a tube taped to his arm shakes. The thin tube runs across his forearm and a faded tattoo of a peacock. It stretches down to the floor where it attaches to Billy's medicine.

He carries his chemio with him. Billy has two weeks and two days left of treatment. He tries not to worry about the possibility that cancer could return.

"She said to go home and don't worry about it," Billy says.

Billy and Marlene are lucky to have found the Hope Lodge. Billy says he would have found a way to be in Gainesville for treatment, but the lodge has reduced his stress by eliminating the worry of getting back and forth from their home in Ocala every day. "It sure has helped me out a lot," he says.

While Billy rests after his treatments in their room, Marlene flits around the lodge, socializing with the other patients and their companions. Marlene was touched by how friendly the other residents were when she and Billy first arrived at the lodge. She tries to be just as kind to new residents, and hopes that her kindness will help chip away the fears they feel in their first few nights.

"Everybody introduces themselves and talks about their cancer," says Marlene. "It's like a family."

The support of other lodge residents is important to Billy and Marlene. They witnessed the struggle against cancer when Billy's brother died from the disease, so they know what they are up against.

"We've been up about this and just said, "we're going to beat this," Marlene says.

**NEAL**

As Neal Williams walks from the dining room to the conference room where residents meet to watch movies, he greets everyone he passes with a smile. He scratches the tufts of grayish hair that encircle his slightly balding head. He can't believe his treatments are finished and his last day at the lodge is almost over. In the morning, he will head home.

Neal, 72, has been at the lodge for two months undergoing treatment for prostate cancer. His smile grows, causing the skin around his brown eyes to crinkle, as he talks about finishing treatment. He jokingly admits that while he is excited to go back to his hometown of Bradenton, he is not motivated to return to the real estate and construction projects he left behind.

Neal, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer earlier this year, was routinely tested until last year, when he let his guard down. When this year's test came back positive, he regretted missing the test that might have caught his cancer earlier.

Neal had heard stories of minor problems becoming major because of a misdiagnosis, and he didn't want to take any chances. Even though there were good oncology units near his home, he worried about being treated there. The only hospital he trusted was Shands.

"The best doctors in the world, in my opinion, are here," he says.

Regardless of Neal's determination to be treated in Gainesville, he says it would not have been possible for him to afford a hotel or drive back and forth constantly. The Hope Lodge made his treatment possible, and Neal says he is sad to leave behind the new friends he considers a part of his family.

"People are happy here although they're in severe treatment and have a disease, and not just a disease, but something that will take you out," says Neal.

Neal says coming to the lodge was a "life-saving experience." It helped him become stronger because he was not the only one battling cancer. He was suddenly part of a community fighting off the disease together rather than facing it alone. He thinks the sense of family changes the perspectives of patients because they suddenly have a community to worry about rather than just themselves.

**NOREEN**

Noreen Uva sits in the back of the cafeteria, alone despite the peaks of laughter and snippets of small talk coming from groups of people huddled around tables, smiling and chatting as a lasagna sizzles and bakes in the oven.

Dinner is 45 minutes late, but no one seems to care. The group socializes during the wait. Noreen has yet to join one of the conversations that surround her, but she doesn't really know anybody yet. It's only her first day at the lodge.

As Noreen waits, she glances at the faces that surround her. Some of the residents have blue lines drawn across their cheeks or necks from their radiation treatments.

Noreen recognizes the lines. She has them too but hers are hidden under her clothes. The lines tie her to the other residents and she can sense the camaraderie in the room.

"Here you get to meet other people who have the same thing," says Noreen. "You're all going through the same thing, just a different location on the body."

Unlike most of the other residents, Noreen does not have a companion — her husband of 16 years could not make the trip from their home in the Virgin Islands. The 43-year-old nurse from St. Croix looks forward to the weekends, when her sister will join her. Louise will bring a TV/VCR combo so Noreen can watch movies in her room. Movies help keep her mind off of the fear she feels about her upcoming treatment. The movies would help tonight, while Noreen lies awake worrying about her first chemotherapy treatment.

Noreen's bout with cervical and uterine cancer began earlier this year, but she isn't sure how long she has had the disease. A Pap smear screening in 1998 came back abnormal, and Noreen knew she needed to get to the doctor as soon as possible.

But when her mother was diagnosed with cancer, Noreen put her own life on hold. After her mother passed away in March 2000, she took a demanding head nurse position in an intensive care unit, and continued postponing a checkup.

About a year ago, Noreen experienced vaginal bleeding, but the demands of her job kept her from seeing the doctor for an additional seven months. Finally, in August she was diagnosed with uterine cancer. Soon after, doctors discovered she also had cervical cancer. Her doctor arranged for her to travel to the United States for treatment.

"I went from the airport straight to the doctor," Noreen says. "I had the hysterectomy in September. It all went so fast."
**EDITORIALS**

**Deadly flaws**

The recent stay of execution for Amos King and pending Supreme Court case Ring v. Arizona that will decide whether judges, rather than juries, can hand out the death penalty are at the tip of the iceberg when it comes to dealing with the death penalty.

The system is flawed, inefficient, and all executions should be abolished in favor of more humane and practical forms of punishment, such as incarceration.

While proclaiming to be the most civilized nation in the world, the United States condemns other states such as China for human rights violations and is the only Western, industrialized country to still execute its own people. Other nations such as Britain, France and Canada consider us barbaric for this practice.

One of the most popular arguments in favor of the death penalty is, ‘Why should taxpayers pay to feed, clothe and house a person for a life sentence in prison when we could just execute him?’

This argument holds no water, however, when one realizes that it is more expensive to execute a convicted felon than it is to incarcerate the person for life. According to The Miami Herald, in Florida it costs about six times more to execute a prisoner than to let him sit in prison for a lifetime. A trial that results in the death penalty and subsequent legal proceedings (appeals, reviews, etc.) drains taxpayers far more than one which ends with a simple life sentence without chance of parole.

The death penalty costs far more than it is worth. Even if one agrees with the death penalty in general, it cannot be denied that the system here in Florida is extremely flawed. The death penalty is a political issue, and when politics hold the fate of a human life, it always be biased.

Since 1977, 23 death row inmates in Florida have been found to be wrongfully convicted. And those are just the 23 we know about. Several others may be awaiting an execution they do not deserve.

The death penalty is an archaic institution rooted in tradition which should be left to history. Florida must stop turning the wheels of a broken machine.

**New rules**

The United States is not breaking any rules in the treatment of Al-Qaïda prisoners at Guantánamo Bay, because there are no rules to break anymore.

America has not declared war on another nation since the beginning of World War II in 1941. In spite of this, we have fought numerous "conflicts" or "police actions."

The "War on Terror" is no different. The United States has no intention of declaring war in a formal manner and is treading in unknown waters when establishing new norms for the rules of combat. With a formal declaration come certain steadfast rules that must be followed.

If any detainees were considered prisoners of war, there would be certain international laws that would have to be followed, such as ensuring their release upon the end of the conflict in Afghanistan.

As uninterested as they are in the treatment of the detainees, President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld must establish the standards by which they will treat the Al-Qaïda prisoners, and the terms under which they will be held, in the interest of fairness.

While the status of the "war" is ambiguous, the status of those involved cannot be.

The ALLIGATOR encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author’s name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld if the writer shows just cause. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar, style and clarity. Send letters to letters@alligator.org, bring them to 1106 W. University Ave., or send them to P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604-2257. Columns of about 450 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 376-4458.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Public should be aware**

Editor: Gabrielle Walker was right in her Jan. 24 letter, “Euthanasia unnecessary,” Euthanasia is horrific, not simply on the basis of the act itself, but on the magnitude at which it happens. It is, however, necessary, and the Wednesday story “A necessary evil” is about more than coming to terms with murder. It’s about bringing out from under the rug a problem that is spiraling out of control. It shows the people who work with the animals everyday through both the joy of adoption and the sorrow of death.

The people at the shelter are not capable of blissful ignorance and are extremely dedicated to every animal they come into contact with. Through stories, and graphic pictures such as those in "A necessary evil." the public must face the problem too.

It seems that Walker’s main objection to the story is that it didn’t give her warm fuzzies, but instead a shiver down her spine. Unfortunately, when a problem such as pet overpopulation becomes as bad as it is, don’t you think the public needs a shiver down the spine to make it react?

Emily Montgomery

2AG

**Euthanasia necessary**

Editor: As a dog owner who adopted her pet from Alachua County Animal Services, I commend the Alligator for Wednesday’s story “A necessary evil.” Most individuals never see the consequences of their “toss-it-away” attitude. Perhaps the photographs exhibiting the harsh reality of pets tossed away were enough to make people begin to understand the consequences of their uncaring attitude.

After reading Gabrielle Walker’s letter “Euthanasia unnecessary” in Thursday’s Alligator, I determined that Walker has never seen an animal suffer. The purpose of euthanasia is to keep unwanted pets from suffering like those that Animal Services does not pick up. Most likely they will end up on the side of the road or starving to death.

I prefer to come to terms with a quiet, clean death as opposed to an agonizing, slow process. As a fellow dog-lover, I assume Walker would agree on that point at least. Society could stop what Animal Services has to do by spaying and neutering our pets and not disposing of them when we no longer want them.

Elizabeth Serca

4AG

**Islam not more tolerant**

Editor: Anthropology graduate student Alan Brech must have been floating in some dream world of anti-scholarship when he wrote of Islamic “tolerance of religious minorities” in Friday’s column “West owes debt to Islamic culture.” According to Brech, “Jews and Christians generally flourished under Islamic rule before 20th century Zionism.”

An Arab mob razed the Jewish quarter of Granada, Spain, in 1066 and slaughtered its 5,000 inhabitants.

In 1465, Arab mobs murdered thousands of Jews in Fez, Morocco, leaving only 11 people alive.

As late as the 19th century, 300 Jews were murdered in Marrakesh, Morocco, between 1864 and 1880.

Decrees calling for the destruction of synagogues were enacted in Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, all before the rise of Zionism.

Communities of Jews were forced to convert to Islam or face death on seven different occasions in Yemen, Morocco and Iraq, all before Zionism.

Going back to the beginning of Islam, Mohammed expelled two major tribes of Jews from Medina in A.D. 622 when they

**YOUR OPINION**

**FRIDAY’S QUESTION**

Should there be more restrictions on telemarketers?

**YES** 94%

**NO** 06%

193 total votes

**TODAY’S QUESTION**

Do you support the use of the death penalty?

To cast your vote, log on to www.alligator.org. Look for the results of this poll in Tuesday’s Alligator.
Islam put on pedestal

Editor: I am writing in response to Friday’s “tolerance of religious minorities” column. “West owes debt to Islamic culture” written by Alan Brech. I am sympathetic to the cause of religious tolerance in general, however I must take issue with some of his statements because they tend to put Islam on a pedestal and exaggerate its achievements to make a point.

The first significant number of achievements that graduate student Alan Brech attributes to Islam were not actually achievements of Islam but were foreign in origin and merely adopted by Islam.

For example, “Arabic” numerals and decimals were actually invented in India by Hindus, and Greek philosophy is obviously a Greek achievement not to be credited to Islam, except perhaps for it’s role in preserving texts.

Brech’s assertion that Islam has a tradition of religious tolerance while the West does not is in my opinion reverse ethnocentrism in favor of Islam. Certainly there are many instances of religious intolerance in the West, but what about all those in Islamic history?

Islam, in its extreme position against idol worship, had a tradition of destroying religious idols, beginning with those destroyed by Muhammad in the Kabbah, and continuing with the invasion of India with the razing of temples and many important and ancient religious icons.

In addition, although Islamic rulers generally did tolerate other religions, those who refused to convert had to pay a “religious tax.” This constitutes economic discrimination against other religions. Forced conversions are not foreign to Islam, nor is the slaughter of religious minorities.

I am not anti-Islam, nor do I condone harassment of Muslims because of their faith. I am a practitioner of a minority religion and view religious freedom as essential. However, in our efforts to be tolerant of other religions we should not put one religion on a pedestal at the expense of others. 

Dave Allin
4LS

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Renovations transform duck pond to amphitheater

By Cameron Ackroyd
Alligator Writer
jaackroyd@alligator.org

Construction crews are rolling out the red tape and chain-linked fences.

As part of a larger plan to make the Reitz Union a better place for students, construction has begun transforming the overgrown duck pond into an amphitheater.

"The whole project is intended to create an amphitheater around the duck pond, which will eventually look out onto a floating stage," Reitz assistant director Mike Mironack said.

The new amphitheater is just the first stage in a new wave of construction at the Reitz.

Plans include construction for a welcome center, bookstore and a new food court along with the amphitheater and floating stage.

"It's going to be a fantastic facility that'll make life a lot easier for students," said Lohse Beeland, director of the Office of Student Activities.

But before the project is complete, several potential inconveniences to students could include the removal of metered parking spaces and having sidewalks crisscrossed with red tape.

"We're cleaning out the scrub brush and bringing in fill dirt, and soon we'll start to build a series of terraces around the pond," Mironack said.

Mironack said the new facility will improve student life when everything is complete.

"The walkways around the pond had become inaccessible and closed - the amphitheater opens up the space so that people can use it," Mironack said.

He said the original intent of the pond was simply to improve the look, but now the Reitz Union Board of Directors wants to make more practical use of the space.

Before the bulldozers came in, however, horticulture experts came in and identified any plants that were valuable and should be saved. Those plants were then transplanted around campus.

"The new area will provide some more green space for students to hang out in the fresh air," Mironack said.

A bulldozer rests silently on Sunday afternoon at the construction site behind the Reitz Union. Renovation plans include an amphitheater and floating stage at the duck pond.

911 Report

Man charged with murder after victim dies in hospital

A Gainesville man was charged with murder Thursday after the victim of a robbery died from injuries while on life support, a police report states.

Felony battery and robbery charges against Jaret Ebrionne King, 20, of 3301 SE 21st Ave., were upgraded to murder when Dewey Murdock of Lakeland died at Shands at AGH on Thursday from blunt head wounds suffered from a beating on Monday. The incident occurred at 1101 SE 15th St.

According to witnesses, King hit Murdock on the head with his fist, knocking Murdock to the ground. Michael Armstrong, 19, of 1101 SE 15 St., Apt. 95, then rolled Murdock over, rummaged through his pockets and took $10. King and Armstrong fled on foot.

Armstrong was arrested by Alachua County Sheriff's Deputies and taken to the Gainesville Police Department where he admitted that he and King had committed the act.

Armstrong was charged with strong-armed robbery and accessory after the fact. He has not been charged with murder.

King was arrested at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday at the intersection of 6925 SW 17th Place and 721 NW Sixth St., and is being held at the Alachua County Jail on $100,000 bail.

— Michael V. Martina

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PANTHER ALLEY

PANTHER ALLEY
Theater parking affecting local establishments

By Polly Creedon
Alligator Writer

Arriving at least 30 minutes early and following people around to find a parking spot probably sounds familiar to many UF students, but this scenario is becoming familiar off-campus as well.

Ashley Phillips, a UF liberal arts and sciences junior, said that when she and a friend went to eat at The Ballyhoo Grill, they ended up settling for a parking spot in the grass because Royal Park Stadium 16 moviegoers took most of the parking area reserved for the restaurant.

Parking problems on Friday and Saturday nights in the Plaza Royale lots are becoming well known to patrons of the four businesses currently open in the mall: Cold Stone Creamery, Starbucks Coffee, Quizno’s Subs and Stonewood Tavern & Grill.

Inmate: Valdes beating planned

In the first testimony by a Florida State Prison inmate, Reinaldo Batista testified Friday through a Spanish interpreter that a former corrections officer, Sgt. Charles Brown, planned to beat death row inmate Frank Valdes on the morning of July 17, 1999.

Prosecutors have said Valdes died later that day as a result of a severe beating during a morning cell extraction.

Defense attorneys rested their case on the fact that Valdes inflicted his own injuries after the extraction.

Batista, 41, who is serving time for a second-degree murder conviction in Miami, said he overheard Brown tell another guard hours before Valdes died, “Let’s go back there and let him have it.”

During cross-examination, Batista admitted he might have told authorities a different story earlier.

At one point, the inmate nodded his head “no,” refusing to answer some of the defense attorneys’ questions.

Four officers are on trial for second-degree murder charges in connection with the death of Valdes-Brown, Timothy Thornton, Jason Griffis and Andrew Lewis. They face life in prison if convicted.

The trial resumes today at the Bradford County Courthouse.

— Nin-Hai Tseng
Visit to state prison brings jurors, journalists to site of Valdes’ death

from page 1

Prison security issues inherent in mixing 11 jurors with more than 600 convicted criminals housed in the prison.

“All the inmates are locked down,” Turner reassures the jurors. “We will not see or have any contact with inmates. There shouldn’t be any concern about security.” Nevertheless, visitors move through the multiple checkpoints securing the facility flanked by prison officials and stony-faced corrections officers who are visibly nervous about this visit. The jurors are kept together in a tight group, and straggling journalists quickly are warned away from sensitive areas—it’s clear the prison officials would label the entire facility a sensitive area, except Florida law requires that court proceedings be open to the public.

The itinerary for this trip is a tour of the prison facilities where Valdes’ death played out. The first stop is the emergency room of the prison clinic, a mint-green room with a single window where prosecutors say guards took Valdes twice on July 17, 1999—the day he died.

A single bed, neatly blancketed in tissue-thin white sheets, stands at the center of the room, surrounded by shiny medical equipment. The doors and walls of the clinic are decorated with gold-foil hearts and teddy bears holding “Be My Valentine” signs. The cheerfulness of the clinic is in stark contrast to the events of July 17, 1999, where prosecutors say the brown-eyed, dark-haired inmate was taken after being beaten in his cell. They say he was brought back later that afternoon after being found unconscious in his cell.

The visitors, hurried along by nervous officials, do not stop anywhere for long, and much of the tour is a whirlwind of identical rooms and long, antiseptic corridors that could pass for a hospital if not for the heavy gates.

At the “dress out” room, Turner lifts with one hand a black padded vest for the jury to see. Prosecutors say this is the area where guards geared themselves in helmets, flak jackets and other protective gear that morning to “extract” Valdes from his cell because he had threatened former officer Montrez Lucas the previous day.

This also is the room where prosecutors say guards discussed beating Valdes so they could teach him a lesson about messing with guards. Turner guides the jurors into a conference room. The room, full of wooden desks, is where several guards are accused of falsifying reports after Valdes’ morning beating.

One of the last stops on the tour is the Quebec Wing, which in 1999 was called the X-Wing. This is the disciplinary wing, two rows of 7-by-9-foot cells buried at the end of a quarter-mile corridor, where problem prisoners are housed.

Valdes, who was convicted of killing a West Palm Beach corrections officer in 1987, had a reputation for giving guards a hard time.

“I can’t emphasize strongly enough the importance of discipline in the area in which we’re about to go into,” Turner says before leading everyone into the wing. Immediately, the ceiling dips to about 8 feet. There’s no air conditioning to cool this narrow hallway, where two people barely have enough room to walk side by side.

Jurors, journalists and attorneys stand stiff as mannequins, packed like sardines, in front of the six, double-gated cells. During pretrial hearings, X-Wing inmates said they could hear beatings through a network of vents known as Pipe Alley, and jurors are allowed to peer down the long, narrow walkway. They also are allowed into a cell, where several of them crouched to the floor to determine what they could actually see through a thin crack between the steel door and the floor.

Jurors also were shown cell 2202, where prosecutors say Valdes was put after being returned from the clinic. This is where, later in the afternoon, he was found unconscious. The incident was more than two years ago, but faded red and white evidence tape still dangles from the heavy metal doorway.

This faded tape, in fact, is perhaps the only physical reminder of the events of July 17. Florida State Prison is a whitewashed facility, and it’s difficult to conjure from featureless corridors and spotless cells the images of the terrible things prosecutors say happened here.

And yet the visit obviously has elicited some kind of response—at least one juror was sniffing and misty eyed on leaving Valdes’ former cell. For all that it resembles an enormous, antiseptic hospital, the facility remains a prison—and the human tragedy of the place clearly took its toll on visitors.
Hope Lodge staff and residents form a supportive family in a time of need

from page 5

HOPE LODGE

Now Noreen is adjusting to life at the Hope Lodge. She worries about the people she has left behind, and she frets about her job in St. Croix, but she also is thinking about an upcoming checkup with her oncology gynecologist. There is one thing Noreen does not want to hear: a prognosis.

It just seems weird to Noreen to put a percentage on her chances of beating cancer – she knows she will beat it.

JUDY

Judy Mace is approaching her 10th year as director of the Hope Lodge, where she began as the volunteer coordinator in 1988. During the past 13 years, Judy has seen enough at the lodge to know that hope is the key ingredient in her job.

"I've cried with people many, many times because the doctors have said 'There's nothing more we can do for you, go home and get your affairs in order,' and 10 years later, they're still living these wonderful lives," she says.

Judy recalls one older couple that met and fell in love at the lodge. They were both widowed when they came, and doctors did not give either an optimistic prognosis. The couple decided to enjoy their remaining time, so they eloped while undergoing treatment. Seven years later, the two are still traveling and enjoying their lives.

Judy also was thrilled when two former residents came back to the lodge for a visit with a new baby in tow. Doctors had told the woman she would never be able to bear children, so they named the child after Judy. Judy still laughs when she recalls that the couple admitted the baby had actually been conceived at the lodge.

A board at the Hope Lodge keeps residents up to date on who is finishing their treatment.

Not all of the updates Judy receives are so cheerful. Every April the lodge holds a reunion for former residents, and cards and letters arrive telling her who has passed away. Hearing these stories all at once has gotten to her before, but she says she prepares for it now.

"I truly believe if I don't become emotionally involved, I'm not doing my job," Judy says. "But I do have to have some space."

BROOKE

Volunteer Brooke Morris knows about the need for space.

Brooke, a UF liberal arts and sciences senior, is one of 50 volunteers at the lodge. She has been with the Hope Lodge for two years, and while she has many friends among the other volunteers and workers, she hasn't really become close to any of the residents. Except one. Brooke met Chris about two years ago when she was still new at the lodge. He was different from most of the patients who stay at the lodge are about 50 or older. Chris was only 17, even younger than the then 19-year-old Brooke. He was always sitting outside, laughing and having fun. When Brooke came to work, she spent a lot of time talking to Chris and before long she befriended not only Chris but also his parents.

When his treatment was over, Brooke and Chris exchanged e-mails to keep in touch. Brooke was happy for Chris because it seemed he was finally beating the cancer that had plagued him since childhood. Then the e-mails stopped coming.

Brooke heard nothing from Chris until she returned from summer break, but she smiled when she found an e-mail on her computer.

The smile disappeared when the message appeared. It was from Chris' father. Her friend had passed away.

Two years later, Brooke still can't believe it. The death of her friend makes her more determined to help at the Hope Lodge and keep her going even when she feels too busy to volunteer. And having friends and family members who have died of cancer, she can empathize with the patients and their families. Even after two years volunteering at the lodge, it still amazes Brooke how patients transform during their stay.

"You can tell the ones who are new because they won't talk to you," Brooke says. "They won't really talk to anybody. Then as the weeks progress, they're going out to dinner with the other people and enjoying the dinners here."

The faces are always changing at the Hope Lodge. Billy and his wife have returned to Ocala. A CAT scan performed last week showed no signs of cancer.

Neal also has returned home, and Noreen is back in the Virgin Islands. The medical outlook for both is good.

Residents usually stay at the lodge for six to 10 weeks, but friendships are formed during those weeks. To keep the friendships alive, Judy created a wall with pictures of former residents, which is displayed in the laundry room. Most of the pictures have messages such as "Doing great," and "Missing Millie, but I'm moving forward. Love you!"

The wall is the only place in the lodge the residents hope to be again. It's a place where Noreen, Neal and Billy know their pictures will be hanging someday.

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Adjunct professor dies at 51

By Staci Zavattaro
Alligator Writer

Barbara Roth, a beloved member of UF’s Political Science Department, died tragically Thursday, allegedly at the hands of her adopted son, Tavares Williams. She was 51.

If one word could be used to describe the overall feeling among friends, neighbors and coworkers, it would be shock.

“She was a very neat, caring, special lady who we’re going to miss very much,” said David Hedge, undergraduate coordinator for UF’s Political Science Department.

Diane Craig, research analyst for The Center for Studies in Humanities and Social Studies and Roth’s supervisor, was a friend of Roth.

In describing Roth’s relationship with Williams, Craig said, “He was the most important thing in her life.”

Albert Matheny, assistant dean for Student Affairs and professor in the political science department, has known Roth since she began her graduate work.

“Everyone who knew Roth said they would miss her charismatic personality and innovative teaching methods.”

“She was really hard-working, upbeat person — not the kind of person you’d expect to be a professor,” Matheny said.

Roth received her degree in August and was going to be invited back to teach for the Fall semester, Matheny said.

He said that Roth also was into Web design.

She helped develop one of the first Web courses for the department, and perhaps the university, in American Federal Government. She also designed Web pages for friends such as Lynn Levery, lecturer in the Political Science Department.

“She was a real innovator,” Matheny said.

Colleagues first heard of Roth’s death during a faculty meeting last week. One woman left to use the restroom and returned in tears, Matheny said. She eventually informed everyone of the news.

“Everyone just sat there,” Matheny said.

Everyone who knew Roth said they would miss her charismatic personality and innovative teaching methods.

“She was a really hard-working, upbeat person — not the kind of person you’d expect to be a professor,” Matheny said.

Roth was putting together a course on higher education policy.

“She took her work very seriously,” he said.

Roth’s neighbors and colleagues said that she and Williams had a very close relationship, and they did almost everything together.

“They were very close,” said Lynn Levery, assistant director of the Askew Institute. “This is what makes this thing so confusing.”

Albert Matheny, the assistant dean for Student Affairs, said Williams’ parents had abandoned him, then Roth took him in when she was employed as a social worker.

“He thrived with her,” he said. “He was a really nice kid. It was the furthest thing from anyone’s imagination.”

Community members also had high opinions of Williams.

“He was a good student and on track for graduation,” Gainesville High principal Charles Hall said.

Hall said Williams was involved with many activities in school, including chorus, ROTC and football.

Williams was “well liked and well respected by his peers,” Hall said.

“This is not something I would expect to hear from any of our children,” Hall said. “Everyone who knew him is surprised,” he said.

Bobby Humphries, assistant football coach at Gainesville High, has been involved with the team since last summer.

“I’ve been around T.C. since August, and from what I saw he was a dedicated athlete,” Humphries said. “He was a good kid.”

Officers at the Alachua County Jail said Williams has no criminal past and is not eligible for bond.
New aerobics classes offer more workout choices

By Allison Dicus
Contributing Writer

Grab your workout bag, head to the gym and get ready to sweat, because the UF Division of Recreational Sports is offering five new aerobics classes.

“We like to have a variety of programs available for the students,” said UF sophomore Jenny Sulzer, the facilities manager at the Southwest Recreation Center. “A greater variety of classes gives people more of what they want and that is important.”

UF aerobics classes attract about 1,100 students a week, said Ashley Mustard, graduate assistant for UF group exercise programs. There is always an increase in participants in the ath-

New aerobics classes are chosen in response to what is popular within the fitness industry, Mustard said.

Stride, one of the new programs, is a 30-minute workout that uses the treadmills at the Southwest Recreation Center, Sulzer said.

“Stride teaches you to use the treadmill so you get the most out of your workout,” Mustard said.

A second new class is Hatha Yoga II — a resistance-training program that uses body weight to do exercises. This class was created as a more entry-level class to the popular 75-minute Outdoor Training session.

“Florida is the perfect place for this because we have such nice weather,” Mustard said.

Deep H20 Exercise attracts a variety of participants but is particularly attractive to the obese, elderly and those with osteoporosis because water exercises are easier on the joints than land exercise, Mustard said.

“Group exercise programs are good for people that need a motivator,” Mustard said. “Aerobics programs are a wonderful way to relieve stress and are excellent for overall health.”

For more information on these and other UF exercise programs visit www.hhp.ufl.edu/recsport/srfc.htm.
Friday, February 1
Opening Ceremony: "we are...ONE PEOPLE"
University Memorial Auditorium, 7:00pm

Saturday, February 2
Block Party: "ONE People...ONE Beat"
Turlington Plaza, 7:00pm
Co-sponsored by SG Multicultural Affairs

Sunday, February 3
Inspirational Service: "Finding Your Inspiration: ONE Body, ONE Spirit, ONE People!!"
Reitz Union Auditorium, 3:30pm

Monday, February 4
Set Day: "ONE people...ONE Place"
Turlington Plaza, noon
Speaker: Bobby Seale
The University Memorial Auditorium, 7:00pm

Tuesday, February 5
Black Jeopardy: "ONE People...ONE Question"
Venue TBA, 7:00pm

Tuesday, February 7
"One People...One Future"
Institute of Black Culture
6:30pm
Co-sponsored by the CRC

Thursday, February 7, 14, 21, & 28
Foods of Blackness: "Many Foods...ONE Heritage"
Institute of Black Culture, 11am-2pm

Friday, February 8
5th Annual Black History Month Poetry Night: "We are ONE People...This is Our Poem"
Wise Guys, 7:00pm-11:00pm
Co-sponsored by IΦΘ

Saturday, February 9
Family Reunion
Presented by NSBE
Flavet Field, 11:00-3:00pm

"One People...One Voice"
Presented by Association of Black Communicators Forum
Venue TBA, 3:00pm

Sunday, February 10
Delta Sigma Theta Church Service
Greater Bethel AME, 10:50am

Black History Month Service Project
TBA

Monday, February 11
Speaker: E. Lynn Harris
The University Memorial Auditorium, 7:00pm
Co-sponsored by PRIDE Student Union.
Reception hosted by the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Lambda Psi
Chapter following the speech

Tuesday, February 12
2nd Annual Youth Empowerment Forum
9:00am-1:00pm
Location: J. Wayne Reitz Union

2002 Onyx Explosion Fashion Show
7:30pm - 9:30pm
Location: J. Wayne Reitz Union
Rion Ballroom
Dress Code: Dress to Impress
Wednesday, February 20
Speaker: Nick Chiles & Denene Millner
The Harn Museum, 7:00pm

Balance and Abundance:
Concepts of Gender in African Art
The Harn Museum, 8:30-10:00pm

Thursday, February 21
IBC Day:
"ONE people... ONE Purpose"
Institute of Black Culture, Noon-3:00pm
Co-sponsored by IBC Emissaries

Black Male Extravaganza: "A Black Man's Gift:
The Truth, The Tragedy, The Triumph"
Presented by KΑΨ
The Curtis M. Phillips Center For Performing Arts, 7:30pm

Friday, February 22
Gator Nights
Reitz Union, 7:00pm

Saturday, February 23
2nd Annual Black History Month Mardi Gras Ball: "A Bourbon Street Exclusive"
University Holiday Inn, 8:00pm

Monday, February 25
"One people... One role"
Presented by ΑΦΑ
Venue TBA, 7:00pm

Tuesday, February 26
Celebrating Our Hair:
"Happy to be Nappy"
The Baja Tortilla Grill, 7:00pm
Co-sponsored by Gillian Cross

Thursday, February 28
Closing Ceremony
The University Memorial Auditorium, 7:00pm
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Don't be SCARED off by LINES at the House of Horrors!
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Gators vs. Kentucky
Tues. Jan. 29 @ 9:00 pm

First 1,000 students in the Rowdy Reptile section will receive Gator basketball masks courtesy of Gatorade.

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These students all got in...YOU CAN TOO!

Gators vs. Mississippi State
Sat., Feb. 2 @ 5:00 pm

UF STUDENTS FREE!
UF grad blends architecture, art at Tampa show

By Brandon McCoy
Assistant Writer

TAMPA — Architecture is art according to a UF graduate whose steel sculptures were featured at a Friday gallery opening. Architect and artist John Langley made the statement bridging the two fields of architecture and art as attendants admired a variety of his works ranging in size and style.

Langley has spent the past decade concentrating on sculptural fine art, with the focus of his work on using found steel objects and fabricated steel parts.

"Architects, by nature, are designers, artists and creators," Langley said. His work was featured in the gallery opening of Art by Architects hosted by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

"As an artist, it was my first featured show," Langley said.

Langley displayed 11 pieces of steel sculpture in the opening. The size of the pieces ranged from those that would fit on a small pedestal to those that stood taller than many of the opening's attendees.

After graduating from the UF School of Architecture, Langley set out to develop his professional career practicing architecture, but also had begun to pursue his interests in furniture design.

A few years later, he was drawn to sculpting steel.

"Architects, by nature, are designers, artists and creators." - John Langley

Since the beginning of his artistic career, Langley has worked with several other architects and artists who also express a deep interest in communicating the similarities and "bridging the gap" between architecture and fine art.

To do so, Langley manipulates order, proportion and structural integrity with the sophistication and physical processes of an architect developing his designs.

Langley is president of Galia Corina — a group which annually displays work ranging from painting to sculpture, photography to ceramics and architecture to spoken words.

The organization is headed into its fourth year in 2002.

Before the gallery event, Langley said he had only been involved in group shows.

But that changed when Gary Smith, the president of the AIA, discovered Langley's work and wanted to showcase his sculpture.

"Personally, for me, the AIA has never really been an organization that I have responded to," Langley said. "The AIA doesn't always respond to designers."

But Smith was responsive to Langley's designs when he asked him to be the first artist to participate in an event of this kind.

The goal of the show was to clue some artists in on what the architecture community is doing and clue some architects in on what the art community is putting out, Langley said.

Roy Adams, a photographer, said he enjoyed seeing Langley's pieces at the event.

"John's sculpture and the space complement each other," Adams said.

Architect Oliver Schwarz also attended the event and was impressed with the body of work on display.

Langley's sculpture will be in the Tampa office until April, when the next event is planned.

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**CLUE**

1. Flag
2. clin
3. A month
4. Universe

**ANSWER**

NAEBNA
XCTEA
MIOID
RGSEE

**CROSSWORD**

**CLUE**

1. White
2. Approaching
3. Entangle
4. University

**ANSWER**

ELBHC
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Staff Report

UF men’s swimming coach Gregg Troy said it would take an almost perfect performance to defeat Auburn. The Gators weren’t perfect, and they didn’t win, falling to the No. 2 Tigers 153-90 Friday night.

The good news is that they will get a chance to avenge the loss at the Southeastern Conference Championships, and they rebounds the next day by rolling past Alabama 128-50-105.50.

The women’s team also split the weekend, falling to No. 2 Auburn 130.50-110.50, then coming back to top Alabama 129-99.

Después both teams suffering defeat, Troy was not disappointed by the outcome given by his athletes.

“I am very pleased with this team,” Troy said.

“This was an incredible Auburn team that was real deep with great athletes. I felt we swam well, we are much better at this point in the season than we have ever been. The women are just outstanding, and the men are stepping up. We are going to be really good by the SEC meet."

UF did register some impressive individual performances against the Tigers, highlighted by sophomore Janelle Atkinson.

Gregg Troy
swimming coach

“We are much better at this point in the season than we have ever been. The women are just outstanding, and the men are stepping up. We are going to be really good by the SEC meet.”

UF Swimmer Philip Norris races down his lane during the men’s 200-meter breaststroke Friday at the O’Connell Center.

Consistency produces victory

By Jeremy Fowler
Alligator Writer

Whatever the No. 11 UF gymnastics team lacked in the last couple of meets, it made up for in consistency this time around.

The Gators (6-3, 2-0 Southeastern Conference), who pulled out a dogfight victory against Kentucky two weeks ago, after being down by 17 points, won two rotations, taking a lead in the first vault rotation against rival Louisiana State on Friday and never looked back.

UF had too many weapons for the Tigers (2-5, 0-2), even without junior Linda Miner on the lineup. The top six and the individual all-around score belonged to the Gators, as freshman Orley Szumuch, senior Hilary Thompson and junior Kara Waterhouse finished first, second and third, respectively.

UF coach Judi Markell was impressed with her team’s improvements.

“After last week, bars and vaulting were suffering,” Markell said. “We concentrated on that and it showed.”

Suzmich enjoyed a career day, posting a tie for the second-highest all-around score in school history with a 39.5."

“Judy felt on ‘Suzmich’ said, ‘Practices have been going well, but you never know until you get out there.

‘I have had some unsuccessful seasons in the past, so I’m hungry.’

Markell received some surprises from two other gymnasts on the day. Kimberly Schatz produced a 9.725 on the vault, while senior Dooley had the high score on the vault with a career-high 9.875.

Dooley’s breakout was inevitable to Markell.

“I was thrilled to see Dooley perform like she did,” Markell said. “You can tell that she has been fighting injuries recently, but she will be a star of the future.”

LSU did not go down without a valiant effort. After a slow start in the first two rotations the Tigers received a 4.9 on the floor event, led by Nicki Arnsdor with a 9.9 individual score. This cut the Gators’ lead down to 2 going into the Gators’ final rotation.

UF, however, was resilient, compiling three 9.85 scores by Szumuch, junior Kelly Heebens and junior Jenny Carow, as well as an overall score of 48.875 in the Gators’ floor exercise.

Markell was pleased with her team’s extraction through adversity.

“We came through well and fought really hard,” Markell said. “Our team in general is such a cohesive unit, and I had confidence in them.”

Waterhouse got her all-around game intact after facing problems on the bars last week against Kentucky, while senior Kristy Dreger was consistent despite the strain in her hip flexor.

Injuries to Dreger, Miner, sophomore Kristen Stucky and sophomore Erin Pendleton will post for the rest of the year, but Szumich has confidence in the Gators.

“I think that says a lot about our team,” Szumuch says.

“We have had a lot of setbacks, but we came out on top.”

Next on the agenda, UF travels to Ann Arbor, Mich., to face the Wolverines on Feb. 1. The Gators will try to build up on their momentum in practice for the remainder of the week.

“We still can get better,” Markell said. “We’re getting better in slow steps.”

Indianapolis quarterback plans to visit; two defensive players commit elsewhere from page 27

RECRUIT

Glades Central as UF’s only defensive commitment.

With the state’s top quarterback plans to visit; two defensive players commit elsewhere

Two highly touted defensive players committed this weekend, but not to UF, while another eliminated the Gators.

Apopka High’s Gainesville.

The Gators’ biggest need is at defensive end, but not to UF, while another eliminated the Gators.

University of Florida’s High coach Bizz Busby, whose running back, Jimtavis Walker, is committed to Florida State early this week while Wakulla High linebacker Sam McGrew isn’t expected to announce his decision until national signing day on Feb. 6.
UF overcomes late Bulldog rally in conference upset

By Jill Martin
Alligator Writer

Four ranked opponents within a two-week span?

In what was supposed to be a difficult four-game stretch against ranked Southeastern Conference opponents, No. 18 UF has won the first two fairly easily. The Gators withstood a second-half rally by Georgia, winning 73-64 in front of 5,065 at the O'Connell Center.

"The Bulldog traffic with 18 minutes, 41 seconds left in the first half, somehow it went in, and Georgia is notorious for starting off cold, having 36-19 and the slow start caused them to trail than a six-minute scoring drought early," Ross said. "[In] our wins we've been extremely emotional, edgy and aggressive. We have to have those things."

Ross also acknowledged that during this four-game stretch with No. 6 Vanderbilt on Jan. 24, Georgia on Sunday, and No. 2 Tennessee and No. 7 South Carolina later this week, the Gators have been forced to play almost errorless basketball due to the height disadvantage.

UF's average height in the starting lineup was almost a full five inches shorter than Georgia's, a similar situation UF had to cope with at Vanderbilt.

"We're little at every spot, and we have to do things better than most people to have a chance to win," Ross said. "We've got to play harder. We've got to play smarter. We've got to play together. We just have to function as a team to be successful. We can't rely on individual play to win ballgames."

In what appears to be an emergence of leadership, the UF seniors took control. McCain had 13 points, while Monique Cardenas and sophomore Vanessa Hayden each scored 19 points. Hayden also added five blocks, while Courtney Cooper had seven points and eight rebounds.

Women's track wins meet with balanced performance

By Andrew Promey
Alligator Writer

Women's track coach Tom Jones seemed clairvoyant Thursday when interviewed about Saturday's Southeastern Conference six-way meet at the O'Connell Center.

"The most [balanced] team will prevail," Jones said.

Jones' Gators epitomized—balanced performance—earning points in 15 events to win the meet with 156.5 points, defeating No. 2 South Carolina by more than 40 points.

The men's team, however, earned second place in a meet where the victory for the men was not decided until the final event. No. 1 Tennessee defeated the No. 6 Gators by a half point, 158 to 157.5.

Carling Cookerly began the day for the No. 1 women's team with a second-place finish in the 5,000 meters in a time of 17 minutes, 45.89 seconds.

In other distance events, Erin Merten's mile time of 4:44.90 not only provisionally-qualified her for the NCAA Indoor Championships, but also is the fastest women's mile time in the country.

In the 3,000, Norma Vega ran a 9:56.19, good enough for third place and beating her old personal best of 10:32.49. In addition, the women's distance medley relay squad earned a first-place victory in 12:28.27.

Amber Robinson placed second in the 55 (6.90 seconds) and third in the 200 (23.95), both provisionally-qualifying times. Ebony Shortwell also scored for the Gators, placing third in the 55 in 6.92 seconds, another qualifying mark.

One disappointment was the absence of sprinter Niki Benjamin, who won her heat in the 55 dash but was pulled out of the finals because of a chronic groin injury.

"She's very frustrated [about the injury]," Jones said. "We had to pull her out. If she's not 100 percent then she won't run."

Other outstanding efforts came from middle-distance runners Kristina Bratton and Melissa DeLeon. They finished first and second in the 800 with times of 2:05.19 and 2:05.69, respectively, current the top times in the country.

Candice Scott continued her streak of victories, winning both the women's shot put and weight throw. Jukina Dickerson was second in the weight throw and Kimberli Barrett was fourth in the shot put.

Other provisional scores came from Megan Westfall (12 feet, 10.25 inches) and Stephanie Hoot (12 feet, 6.25 inches) in the pole vault; Yolanda Thompson in the triple jump (first place, 12.64 meters), and high jumper Krystle Moss (first place, 5 feet, 9.75 inches).

On the men's side, it came down to the final event, the 4 x 400 relay, to decide the winner. With the Gators holding the lead, all UF needed to do was finish third for the event to win the overall meet. A bad final hand-off of the baton slowed them to fourth in the event.

"It was such a good meet that it really doesn't matter who won," men's coach Doug Brown said. "The relay teams ran their hearts out."

Josh Walker won the 55-meter hurdles in 7.33, the same time he ran at the Florida Intercollegiates. However, on Saturday, Walker wasn't the only men's track athlete to qualify for the Indoor Championships.

Chris Duncan earned his spot, placing second in the mile in 4:04.99. Nick Briley qualified with a second-place throw in the shot put (17.83m). Other qualifiers include Brian DaCunha, who was third in the pole vault (17 feet, 7.5 inches). Moise Joseph was fourth in the 800 meter (1:50.56), Kyle Farmer was second in the 200 (21.29), and Eric Newby became eligible for the championships, winning the triple jump with a leap of 15.69 meters.

Other contributors were second-place runner Carlos Hinojosa in the 5000 (14:53.92) and the first-place, distance-medley relay team of Moise Joseph, Ali Abiola, Chris Duncan and Courtney Chambers (10:03.19).

"We are as good as anybody else," Brown said. "We showed that today. We went down to the wire with the No. 1 team in the nation."
**Foul shooting proves valuable on every level**

Seth Colclasure, a student at Bellmont High School in Indiana, knows how to shoot free throws. He understands that it doesn't matter how tall he is, or how limber his three-point shot is.

As long as he relaxes and ignores the environment, he'll sink it nearly every time.

That's why he has broken the high school record for free-throw percentages this year by nailing 167 of 171 attempts in a season—97.8 percent.

Here's the catch. Colclasure was shooting from the same size rim from the same 10-foot distance that the Gators were shooting at Saturday when, as a team, they clanked in 23 of 41 shots to lose 94-92.

Now, there's no doubt that Udonis Haslem would destroy Colclasure in the environment, he'll sink it nearly every time.

As long as he relaxes and ignores the environment, he'll sink it nearly every time.

The most important thing is that Colclasure has a height advantage.

Colclasure's program, we need not touch on that subject.

The second and third, though, there's something we need to understand about this part of basketball.

Free-throw shooting is the only aspect of this sport in which a 14-year-old could out-shoot Michael Jordan.

There's no defense. No pressure.

The emphasis will be on every free throw.

None of those misses were more important than the two guards Justin Hamilton missed with 11 seconds left in regulation.

With the game tied 81-81 and 11 seconds left, Hamilton, who had missed two free throws in a game all season, could not convert.

"I felt confidence and knew I could make them, but I didn't knock them down," Hamilton said.

Those misses along with Pargo's sixth three-pointer of the game sent the game into overtime.

Pargo finished 7-for-8 from three-point range to score a game-high 35 points, despite coming off the bench.

Hamilton, who guarded Pargo, said it was his afternoon.

**Lineman commits as JuCo signee departs**

By Seth Truett

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Opposites attract. At least, for UF coach Ron Zook.

Zook took another step this weekend toward keeping the Gators offense high-powered, but the new coach took a step back in his defensive recruiting.

Zook came to the Gators as a defensive coach. Most recently, he was a defensive coordinator for the New Orleans Saints. He was defensive coordinator and special teams coordinator for UF in the early '90s.

Arkansas didn't beat UF on Saturday. There was nothing the Razorbacks could have done to help or hinder the chances of free foul shots. The Gators missed them on their own.

As a result, they'll have to answer to only one team—themselves.

That's why, maybe more than ever, they need to bring back two classic rules.

Just relax and ignore the environment.

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**Gators haunted by free throws in loss**

By Joel Kaiman

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The pass was perfect, the look was there, and the shot was straight.

Florida coach Nolan Richardson thought Orien Greene's three-point attempt at the buzzer was going to send the Razorbacks to their fifth consecutive loss.

"I thought we got beat," Richardson said. "The guy had a pretty good look. The ball was on line."

Instead, the ball bounced off the rim and the No. 5 UF basketball team lost its second consecutive game in overtime with a score of 94-92.

UF coach Billy Donovan said Greene was not the Gators' (15-3, 4-2 Southeastern Conference) first option.

"We looked for Brett [Nelson] first, but mostly used him as a decoy," Donovan said.

Those misses along with Pargo's sixth three-pointer of the game sent the game into overtime.

Pargo finished 7-for-8 from three-point range to score a game-high 35 points, despite coming off the bench.

Hamilton, who guarded Pargo, said it was his afternoon.

Despite a last-second shot by Orien Greene, the Gators couldn't outlast Arkansas, losing 94-92 in overtime.

Several of the shots he made were ridiculously deep," Hamilton said. "Pargo stepped up and made some great plays.

The Gators' top scorer, Nelson, also came off the bench as punishment for violating a team rule.

Nelson played one of his best games of the season though, finishing with 23 points and shooting 6 of 13 from the three-point line.

Center Udonis Haslem also played well earning his third consecutive double-double with 19 points and 13 rebounds, his ninth double-double this season.

Also scoring in double figures for UF was Hamilton with 14, Bonner with 13 and Greene with 13.

The frenetic pace of the game lead to a lot of points and turnovers.

The Gators finished with 25 turnovers and the Razorbacks with 19.

Richardson said the defense Arkansas showed against UF was more improved than the way the team had been playing during its losing streak.

"We're like a bunch of little dogs with rabies," Richardson said. "You don't want to get close to one of those dogs."

Donovan said he was pleased with the way the Gators handled Arkansas' press, though.

"If they played like that against a lot of teams, they'd turn it over 35 times," Donovan said.

Television broadcasts contributed to this report.

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**Poll Question:** Is Ron Zook's recruiting class a success so far? Visit www.alligator.org/sports to vote!

**Results:**

* YES 40%
* NO 60%

* 276 votes

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Hand was the cornerstone of the Estero offensive line each of the last three seasons. This year he helped the Wildcats to the Class 4A-District 12 title and a berth in the Class 4A-Region 7 title game playing on both the offensive and defensive lines.

Hand said coaches are not looking for him to play on the defensive line, but they may need him on that side of the ball.

JuCo All-American linebacker Lance Mitchell was intent on being at UF when he signed a letter of intent in December, but ESPN.com is reporting that he has been released from that letter and committed to Oklahoma.

Mitchell was enrolled in Spring classes and was expected to participate in spring drills.

That leaves 6-foot-4, 245-pound lineman Ray McDonald out of Belle Glade...
Guard leads UF despite sitting out for game's start

By J.P. DeGauce
Alligator Staff Writer

Off the court distractions forced UF to make some unwanted lineup changes in Fayetteville, Ark., on Saturday.

UF coach Billy Donovan suspended freshman James White one game for an unspecified school-related violation. Junior Brett Nelson failed to start for the first time since Dec. 16, 2000, because Nelson broke a similar rule.

"Brett broke the rule once. James has done it several times," Donovan said. "If I told you why I suspended him, you'd probably say I should've let him play."

The lineup juggling coincided with the return of guard Justin Hamilton. His return from a shoulder injury was expected to bring UF back to full strength. Instead, the Gators must wait at least one more game to have a full arsenal.

Nelson was benched for the first four minutes of Saturday's 94-92 Gators' loss. Nelson still led UF in scoring with 23 points.

White will be available to play against Kentucky on Tuesday. He has averaged 23.6 minutes and 7.2 points per game.

STILL LOVES ARKANSAS: Regardless of the outcome, Donovan said the Razorbacks are still one of his favorite rivalries in the Southeastern Conference.

"If there is one team in this league that I really, really enjoy playing against, it's Arkansas because we play a similar style," Donovan said. "Both teams let it hand out, we let it go and we play."

THEY'RE BACK: Both the Razorbacks and the Gators welcomed players back to their starting lineups after injuries. Hamilton made his first appearance since Jan. 12 against Vanderbilt, while Arkansas' Brandon Dean started for the first time since injuring his knee against Mississippi on Jan. 12.

Dean did play against Georgia during Arkansas' midweek game, scoring 8 points in 21 minutes. Dean scored 4 points in 33 minutes. Hamilton played 42 minutes, scoring 14 points.

BEST AGAINST THE WEST: Prior to the loss to Arkansas, the Gators won 13 consecutive, regular-season games against the SEC West. The streak went back to Feb. 6, 1999 when UF lost to Mississippi at home.

The last time UF lost to a SEC-West opponent on the road, Mississippi State defeated the Gators in overtime in January of the same year.

New Gators coach picks up two wins in debut weekend

By Gregg Girvan
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A fast start is an understatement when describing the No. 35 UF men's tennis team's first matches of the season.

The Gators welcomed new coach Andy Jackson with a pair of wins against Central Florida and Furman over the weekend at the Ring Tennis Complex. UF won 5-2 against UCF on Friday and 6-1 against Furman on Saturday.

Sweeping the doubles competition for the crucial first point played a pivotal role to the quick start the Gators had in each match. The doubles teams of Chris McDonal and Hamid Mirzadeh, Olivier Levant and Eleazar Magallan, and Ross Greenstein and Ryan Sherry all defeated both UCF and Furman.

This gave the team a cushion to enter singles play.

"Winning the doubles may have given our guys a bit more confidence, which is really the main thing we are lacking," Jackson said.

The Gators then went on to dominate the singles matches but not without some resistance. UCF managed to tie the score at 2-2 after winning two of three singles matches.

Despite a rain delay of 45 minutes, UF remained steady and went on to win the rest of the matches, led by Levant with a 6-1, 6-2 win against Antonio Sierra.

"I think Olivier Levant was extremely important because he won both singles and doubles, and both matches he won pretty convincingly," Jackson said. "To have a guy get off the court quickly and give our team another point quickly made a big difference."

Ross Greenstein clinched for the Gators with a 6-2, 6-3 win against Paul Ramy.

On Saturday's match against Furman, UF again had initial trouble during singles play with John Chesworth's 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (2) win against Mirzadeh.

The resolve of the Gators prevailed as they came back to win the rest of singles play, including the clinching win of Troy Johnson against Ryan McCarthy 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. On several occasions, the Gators were down at critical points in the match, but were able to come back to win.

"We know we may be one of the least talented teams in the league," Jackson said. "We are going to have to have other things to fall back on, and the guys have tried to do that through conditioning."

These are the first matches for Jackson at UF, who coached Mississippi State for 17 years and led them to 11 consecutive NCAA Tournament berths.

The Gators head off to face South Florida on Sunday, Feb. 3 at 12 p.m.