Harvard deems Bush's program to be 'irrelevant'

STUDY SAYS STUDENTS ADMITTED TO UF MIGHT HAVE BEEN SELECTED WITHOUT TALENTED 20.

By Kimberly Jones
Alligator Writer

For student Danny Williams, it wasn't his minority status that gained him admission to UF; it was his talent. Nobody had to lose a seat for me to get in here because I was just as qualified as any other student," said Williams, a fitness and wellness senior.

That's one reason why a Harvard University study calls Gov. Jeb Bush's Talented 20 program "virtually irrelevant," because the students admitted under One Florida might have been selected to UF anyway.

The program, which attempts to remove affirmative action from admission procedures, yet still promote minority enrollment, is based on grade point average and test scores.

"Even prior to One Florida, just being a minority has never entitled anyone to be-ing accepted into the University of Florida," said Walter Robinson, associate director of admissions.

The study found "no basis for the claim that Florida's Talented 20 percent plan solved the affirmative action issue."

The Talented 20 program strives to be a race-neutral means to increase diversity in the State University System and increase access for under-represented students.

"We've found it's none of those things," said the study's co-author Patricia Marín.

"Even though admissions is race neutral, there are a number of recruitment, outreach and financial aid initiatives in place that are race conscious." The study found that Talented 20 has led to the admission of very few students who would not have been admitted before the program.

Since Talented 20, UF has increased its minority recruitment staff and continued to try to bring under-represented students here.

"We've been recruiting minority students since the earth cooled," Robinson said.

"We did get additional staff, but programs haven't changed, just the effort has intensified."

Besides the race-conscious programs, the study also found that Talented 20 disproportionately benefits white and Asian students, Marín said.

About 66 percent of white high school graduates were Talented 20 eligible, in comparison to 9 percent of black and Hispanic students who met requirements, according to the study.

Bush called the study "flawed on many levels" in a press release Monday.

"Talented 20 is more than the numbers game to which the researchers attempt to reduce it," Bush said.

"It is a program that benefits students at poorer schools who have striven to do their best but still needed the assistance in admission to the university system. Under this program, we are reaching out to more minority students than ever before."

However in 2001, the first year the Talented 20 program was implemented, UF faced the smallest minority class in the past decade with only 460 black students.

The small numbers paled in comparison to the year before, with the largest minority class ever in 829 black students and 847 Hispanic students, enrolled at UF.

Slowly, the numbers are recovering from the 2001 slump, but whether that is because of One Florida or increased recruitment efforts has yet to be determined.

"We have a zillion saxophone players, but we don't have any oboe players," Robinson said.

"That's what minority recruitment is all about."
Bible study - The Campus Christians will host Bible study today at 7 p.m. at the Reitz Union pond.

Crises in Modern Florida - UF's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences announces the Florida Frontiers' lecture series, "Crises in Modern Florida," with Michael Cannon, emeritus professor of history, at UF at 7:30 p.m. at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Call 846-2032 for more information.

ACROSS THE STATE

Graham to throw hat into presidential ring

MIAMI (AP) - Florida Democratic Sen. Bob Graham plans to file papers launching a presidential campaign in the next two or three weeks to begin raising money but will not make a formal decision on a White House bid until mid-April, associates said Tuesday.

Graham, now in his third term, had planned to join the crowded Democratic field this month, but he delayed his decision when he learned he needed heart surgery. Graham underwent successful surgery Jan. 31 and has been recovering at his daughter's Virginia home.

Associates of the former Florida governor said Graham would like to meet with the Federal Election Commission in late February or early March that would allow him to begin fundraising.

"When he gets to mid-April, you don't want to decide 'Yes, I'm going to do this,' and be at zero [fundraising]," said Robin Gibson, an attorney in Lake Wales, Fla., and a longtime Graham friend. "The feeling is that would be hard to overcome. You want to get to mid-April and have a real choice with viable options either way. If you decide to do it, you can step on a moving train. If you decide not to do it, you can let the train go by."

Buddy Shorestin, a former Graham chief of staff and Jacksonville accountant, said Graham likely would make a formal announcement by mid-April.

AROUND THE WORLD

Britain increases security against terror

LONDON (AP) - Britain boosted security in and around London on Tuesday, deploying tanks and hundreds of troops at Heathrow Airport as police said terrorists could launch attacks timed to a Muslim holiday.

With fears of terrorism high ahead of a possible war on Iraq, police said they were adding patrols at possible targets in central London in response to a "potential threat to the capital."

Soldiers wearing fatigues and carrying rifles patrolled passenger terminals, and light tanks and armored vehicles were stationed at the airport entrance and outside key buildings.

"From time to time, it is necessary to raise levels of security activity," Scotland Yard police headquarters said in a statement. "We think it is prudent to do so now."

Scotland Yard called the move "precautionary" and said it was tied to the possibility that al-Qaida and affiliated terrorist networks could use the end of the religious festival of Eid al-Adha as a pretext for attacks.
Fried appoints Honor Court vice chancellor

By Jessica Orr and April Simpson
Alligator Writers

Student Body President Nikki Fried announced at Tuesday night’s Senate meeting a replacement for the Honor Court vice chancellor position, which was vacated two weeks ago.

Second-year law student Tiffani Fernandez will serve the remainder of the 2002-2003 term, replacing law student Jon Brand. Brand was Board of Governors’ two weeks ago and his position was left empty, said Honor Court Chancellor Leslie Press.

Press said she and Fried jointly appointed Fernandez for the position after interviewing about seven people.

The next Honor Court chancellor that is elected in this month’s election can decide if Fernandez will remain vice chancellor for the 2003-2004 term or if a different person will be appointed, Press said.

Law students Brent Gordon and Darin Patton are both running for Honor Court chancellor.

Press said Fernandez was chosen for her experience with Student Government as an undergraduate at UF and for her current involvement in Honor Court.

Fried said Fernandez is an ethical and upstanding leader on campus who was extensively involved as a UF undergraduate student several years ago.

Fernandez will serve second to the Honor Court chancellor in the Honor Court and will replace Press in a hearing if needed.

Her appointment received the necessary two-thirds approval by the Student Senate at Tuesday’s meeting.

Fernandez graduated from UF in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in finance. As an undergraduate student she helped to plan Gator Growl, served on the Reitz Union Board of Managers and served on several Student Government committees. She also worked as a SG summer senator and on SG elections.

Fernandez returned to Gainesville last year after working in marketing research in Detroit and event planning in Florida.

“It’s really exciting coming back to school after being out for a while,” Fernandez said.

She said she wants to apply the skills she has learned in her law school classes, serving as a teaching assistant and working on the law school career services committee, to the position.

“I really wanted to be particular to what I devoted my time to doing,” Fernandez said, adding that she chose to get involved in activities that would prepare her for the future.

Ignite Party extends pact to opposition

By April Simpson
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Both the Ignite Party and the Student Alliance Party believe in the importance of a positive campaign, although they will not have a jointly signed pact to prove it.

In an effort to combat negative campaigning, the Ignite Party extended a pact to the Student Alliance Party for the Feb. 25 and 26 Student Government elections, but the Student Alliance Party refused to sign the agreement.

“We just felt that we wanted to make sure that both parties were focused on the issues,” said Kyle Jones, Ignite Party presidential candidate.

Jones said he has seen some early indications that could lead to negative campaigning, but said he did not want to list any examples.

Student Alliance Party candidates said they did not see the need for a formal positive campaign pact.

“We thought it was a fact of understanding that we were going to keep the campaign clean,” said Ben Mattison, Student Alliance vice presidential candidate.

Ryan Belanger, Student Alliance presidential candidate, called the pact patronizing and said his party had no intentions of signing it.

“No matter what, we’re going to hold ourselves to that pact,” Philpot said, while adding his party is not accusing the Student Alliance of negative campaigning.

At Tuesday night’s Student Senate meeting, Student Body President Nikki Fried warned candidates negative campaigning and character attacks defeat the purpose of elections and student government.

“Please, please, please don’t get wrapped up in the next two weeks, because if you get wrapped up in the next two weeks it’s going to be a long 365 days,” Fried said.

Ignite Party develops party platform around student suggestions

By April Simpson
Alligator Writer
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Increasing lobbying efforts in Tallahassee and consequently safeguarding Bright Futures Scholarship Program funding are two of the most important issues on the Ignite Party’s platform, according to the party’s candidates.

Issues the party wants to address fall under one of six categories, which include enhancing graduate student education, improving academics, providing additional support for student organizations, increasing campus safety and pursuing technological advancements.

Kate Honey, Ignite vice presidential candidate, said her party’s platform stove to address the issues most affecting students.

“They’re so many different aspects of the platform that we want to get through,” Honey said.

“Stressing the connection between the Student Government and the everyday student is huge,” Honey said.

Student Government’s role is to fill the gap between the State Legislature and the student body.

Kyle Jones, Ignite presidential candidate, said that if elected, his party plans to secure Bright Futures by lobbying in Tallahassee and working with other state universities.

“I just think that it’s an issue that affects almost every student on our campus and really has importance for the long-term implications for our university,” he said.

The party’s platform also includes plans to bring more academic-based speakers to campus and provide better advertising for their lectures in order to increase student attendance.

Jones said that many departments on campus host speakers but incur low attendance because the event is poorly advertised. He suggested building a Web site to keep track of such events.

Honey said the Ignite Party also wants to provide a practice room for student organizations, which are often required to practice skits or dances on Burlington Plaza in poor weather conditions.

Jamil Sowell, Ignite Party treasurer candidate, cited the Apocalypsis Dance Troupe and the Nubian Dance Ensemble as groups which would benefit from the suggested room.

Sowell had trouble pinpointing the most important issue on his party’s platform, but cited providing more international classes and improving resources in sexual assault cases as items of importance.

The Ignite Party platform also includes providing a yearlong 24-hour study facility, increased funding and freedom for student organizations, improved lighting for the Lakeside and Murphy residential areas and a discounted rental fee for subsidizing the Reitz Union Rion Ballroom for SG-funded student organizations.

“We started early as far as asking people what they want to see on the platform,” Sowell said.

Sowell said his party tried to expound upon brainstormed ideas from the Fall election.

Ignite Party candidates said that hundreds of students contributed to their party’s platform.

They said that over the course of three to four weeks, the party took part in brainstorming sessions with several student organizations.
Party raises questions about Bright Futures

By Jessica Orr
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Student Body President Nikki Fried responded at Tuesday night’s Student Senate meeting to recent criticism raised by the Student Alliance Party about the intensity of Student Government’s efforts to assure that the Bright Futures Scholarship Program is preserved among threats of budget cuts from Tallahassee.

Fried reassured senators that UF’s lobbyists have been working actively with legislators and that students will be represented when final bills are created.

“We’re in constant contact with our lobbyists,” Fried said.

“We are trying to find a way to solve this our own way.”

Concern from university students around Florida has come with Gov. Jeb Bush’s recent proposed budget cuts, which included talk of cutting back funds for the scholarship.

Fried also encouraged senators to attend a rally led by the Florida Student Association in Tallahassee on Thursday at 2 p.m. to support the scholarship.

“As of today there are no changes to Bright Futures in the governor’s budget,” she said.

“Bright Futures will completely cover tuition increases.”

Fried said she is working with supporters and Bright Futures Task Force members to create a temporary solution to solve the issue.

Fried, Student Body Treasurer Kyle Jones and Senate Pro-tempore Jess Johnson will meet with key legislators Thursday before the rally to discuss the scholarship, she said.

Last night’s meeting attracted about 20 Student Alliance Party members and executive candidates for this month’s election.

Party members have made Bright Futures the focus of their campaign and also plan on attending the rally Thursday.

Fried warned those at the meeting of campaigning that she said could be detrimental to SG.

“You have to remember we’re here for the students,” Fried said.

“You’re defeating the purpose of Student Government when you attack it.”

Student Alliance presidential candidate Ryan Belanger said he agreed with what Fried said about the lobbying efforts, and the party’s goal is to bring students together to work to save the scholarship.

“No one’s working against anyone,” he said.

“We think that both approaches could work together.”

Belanger said party members have gathered more than 1,800 signed petitions from students to bring to Thursday’s rally and plan on bringing more than 45 students to attend as well.

“I hopefully we can learn a few things,” he said.

“We’ve read everything and learned what we can and also want to go back and educate students”

Gas prices continue to skyrocket

By Julia Crouse
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Students may want to dust off their bikes, break out their walking shoes and put up with crowded buses, because gas prices are still rising.

The prices have risen more than 9 cents in the last month, and they show no sign of stopping, said Yoli Buss, director of traffic safety for Auto Club South.

Some Gainesville stations have peaked at $1.99 to $2 a gallon for premium unleaded gas as of Tuesday evening, especially along Southwest Archer Road, near Interstate 75.

Buss said Gainesville has one of the highest rates of gas prices in the state behind the Miami and Fort Lauderdale area. The limited number of gas stations compared to the number of students – plus the location along I-75 – contributes to the high prices.

“It’s horrible,” said Schelley Zuelke, store manager of the Mobil station at the corner of Southwest Archer Road and Southwest 43rd Street. “We need to come together as a country and economically.”

Gas prices in the Gainesville averaged at $1.69 for regular unleaded gas Tuesday, according to AAA’s Daily Fuel Gauge Report, a survey of 60,000 gas stations nationwide that computes data through credit card transactions.

The recent strike of Venezuela oil industry workers and the imminent threat of war have contributed to the dramatic increase, Buss said.

“There is no way we can know before we go to war whether the prices will rise or drop,” she said.

“Once we see who we are fighting and who our allies are, we might know more.”

Gainesville firefighter Lenny Herrera said he thinks the price of gas is just going to go up.

“I can pay for gas, but I’m going to sell my truck in order to get a car that’s more [fuel] efficient,” he said.

Buss said that although prices are high, the fuel supply is not in question. To conserve fuel, she suggests that drivers make sure their cars are in good repair, have fully inflated tires and try to carpool.

"Save Bright Futures"

Senate candidate Jessica Goodwin chants “Save Bright Futures, come sign a petition, get some free pizza” Tuesday afternoon outside the Reitz Union. She is working with the Student Alliance Party to ensure that Bright Futures will continue rewarding hard-working students with scholarships.

Register prior to 7pm on Feb 12 in the Reitz Union Game Room.

UF Students only. BCA Rules apply.

Registration and tournament information available in the Reitz Union Game Room.
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Freedom of Speech

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution functions to ensure that no one is persecuted for stating his or her beliefs. Freedom of speech is meaningless if citizens are not allowed to voice unpopular and controversial claims — no matter how despicable or controversial they are.

NORML has been countering long-held misconceptions about marijuana for some time now. UF’s own student chapter has continued this tradition by bringing marijuana experts to shatter some of those misconceptions.

Following the most recent NORML meeting, President Josh Manning filed a complaint with the university in response to “disruptive” behavior from Chi Alpha member Joseph Benson when Benson disagreed with the speaker’s religious contentions.

It is completely irrelevant whether the views expressed were right. But seeking administrative action against Benson for stating his beliefs is wrong.

Benson waited to be recognized by the speaker and proceeded to voice his (very unpopular) opinion in a respectable manner. Calling this an act of harassment or intimidation is absurd. This is exactly the kind of persecution the First Amendment seeks to prevent.

It escapes us why Benson would be at the NORML meeting for any other reason than to antagonize members or perhaps to save some condemned sinners from Satan’s hellfire. Nevertheless, as a UF student, Mr. Benson had every right to be at a UF sponsored event.

Yes, Mr. Benson’s claims were insensitive. Yes, Mr. Benson’s presence at the NORML meeting was nothing more than a nuisance. But should he be punished by the university for this? Absolutely not.

Duck and cover

As you’ve probably heard by now, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has upped the ante.

We are now officially in a “high-risk” situation. Or, for those of us who have trouble understanding words, we're at an “orange” danger level.

But don’t fear, the government has some advice for us.

Following along with the tradition of backyard bomb shelters and duck-and-cover films, the government has told American citizens to prepare for impending doom.

They tell us to keep plastic in the house at all times to seal off windows in case of a chemical attack, and they tell us to keep enough food and water to survive three days.

Well, just as hiding under a desk wouldn’t protect school children in the ‘50s from a nuclear attack, keeping plastic in your houses isn’t going to ward off chemical warfare.

“Honey, the dog just dropped, hurry up and seal off those windows!”

We understand that the Bush administration is trying to make us feel as if we have a modicum of control over our lives, but please people. How ‘bout a little respect for our intelligence?

The Bush administration is trying to create a feeling of safety by giving us the illusion that we control our destiny.

Telling Americans that plastic covering on our windows will protect from terrorist attacks is like telling us that orange is scarcer than yellow.

Oh wait.

Visit the Alligator’s message boards at www.alligator.org to post a response.

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 desires that just cause. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to letters@alligator.org, bring them to 1105 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.

Bush administration cries wolf

Code yellow, code orange, code whatever. I’m simply dumbfounded by the fact that I’m told to fear a color.

I’m a conservative enough person to accept the fact that the government hides intelligence for strategic purposes, yet liberal enough to question the current administration’s color-coordinated creation of panic.

And yet logical enough to know that war won’t solve a damned thing.

The current administration could learn a lot if they would turn on their radios. Popular rapper 50 Cent, for instance, could teach us a lot about policy.

In his hit song “Wanksta,” the artist satirizes people who “go to the dealership, but never [buy] nothin’.” It seems that the current administration spends a lot convincing themselves that war is a good idea, only to realize, much like a prospective customer at a car dealership, that it’s not worth it.

While it may seem unfair to compare buying a Benz to declaring war, you can’t ignore the accuracy of my boy 50 Cent.

If he doesn’t like that logic, maybe he should listen to country music icon Kenny Rogers, who once wrote, “You gotta’ know when to hold ‘em, and know when to fold ‘em.” And despite his own best words and Colin Powell’s usual best of blurry black-and-white photos, there is still not sufficient evidence to fight.

This means it’s time to fold, and while Kenny’s chicken was terrible, you can’t argue with his statement about gambling.

Maybe President George Bush could take a lesson from King of Pop Michael Jackson, who reminded us that, “You can’t change colors to accommodate the whims of our defense department.”

No one believed the boy who cried wolf when he cried it one too many times, so the new division of Homeland Security should listen to 50, Kenny, and Michael.

Now, before we delve too much into the realm of a serious issue, let’s award our politician of the week. This week’s winner is Mayor Xochilt Ruvalcaba — seriously, that’s her name — of South Gate, Calif.

The mayor, who’s wild name fits her wild temper, was caught on videotape hitting a city council member with her purse after they got into an argument following a budget meeting.

Police charged the mayor with misdemeanor battery.

The city council member should have seen it coming.

The mayor reportedly was at code blue when the meeting started and code light purple towards the end, which in the past was a sure sign that purses were going to get swung.

Nick Weidenmiller's columns appear on Wednesdays. He can be reached at nweidenmiller@alligator.org.

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

Your Opinion

TUESDAY'S QUESTION

Due to technical difficulties yesterday's poll results are unavailable

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you pay any attention to the government's color coded warning system?

To cast your vote, log on to www.alligator.org. Look for the results of this poll in Thursday's Alligator.
Groups must be respectful to all

Editor: I am writing in regards to the NORML story printed in the paper on Monday. We take a lot of grief from clubs trying to watch our every move to see if we will make a mistake and break the rules of conduct set forth by Dean Cyrus Williams. Since this occurs on a regular basis we feel it is our right and duty to make sure these clubs follow the same rules that we uphold. Chi Alpha did not uphold to these rules, in fact, they were in gross contempt of them. But yet, the public consensus on this subject seems to be that this act was OK because they are promoting God’s word.

Supremacy in any area is wrong. Christian supremacy should be no different. This is not about how NORML is whitewashing because some kid came in and argued with our beliefs, or because he believed in God. If that were the case I would be happy to see a fair and civilized argument about how our beliefs do not coincide with one another and discuss it. The guest speaker at the meeting in fact tried doing the very thing I speak of, but the gentleman’s mind was made up. The real cause of our concern was that he came in with a blatant disconcert for everyone at the meeting, preached his views and said some things that I and several other members overheard about the anger of God toward medical users of marijuana.

All we are asking for is an apology at our next meeting, nothing more. But the member of Chi Alpha would not have it. Instead, he felt it necessary to preach to us about the subject at our table at the Union for two hours. Not one single constructive word came from his mouth. Instead he spouted his narrow-minded views and misperceptions of God to us.

This is harassment. This organization relishes in these moments of self-righteous evangelizing, they hide behind droogs who are programmed to spit up this mindless babble, half of which they have never read themselves and condemn the “unbelievers” because we have a different opinion. But yet NORML is depicted as the wrong-doer in this situation.

If this was any other type of supremacy (i.e. male, white or heterosexual) the picture would have been painted a little differently, as it should be. But hate is not just ignorance and both can cross all boundaries and include all walks of life. Religion is something that can be a beautiful thing, but showing it down people’s throats is not why it was created.

Matt Phipps
VP NORML-UF
4AG
Dawson's Creek

Wednesdays, followed by Angel

UF's home for The WB
Building construction college holds career fair for students

By Kathryn Weldeck
Alligator Contributing Writer

Students dressed in suits and armed with resumes gathered at the O'Connell Center on Tuesday for the second job fair this month.

The Building Construction Job Fair was attended by more than 350 students looking to connect with employers.

Graduate student Eric Meister said he submitted seven resumes in 45 minutes, and he still planned to spend several hours talking to different companies.

"The good thing about this fair, opposed to other career fairs, is that there are less people attending," he said. "It's much more personal this way, and you get a better chance to meet people and talk to them."

Meister was happy about the responses he received from employers, and he looked forward to coming back for one-on-one interviews, he said.

Students from all over Florida attended the fair. Even though the majority of them are students, the fair was open to anyone.

Seventy-eight companies from around the country brought representatives to UF to recruit for internships and full-time positions, said Patty Barritt, who organized the event.

"Even if they are first-year students, this fair helps them get their name out there and they can get internships," Barritt said. "About 99 percent of our students have jobs when they graduate and this career fair helps them get there."

Graduate student Kyle McCollum is looking for a summer internship. This is the second time he attended the Building Construction Fair.

"There's just a great mixture of companies here today, which is nice to see," said McCollum that for him, the best way to prepare for this fair was to research the companies to get a better idea of who they are and what they do.

He came to the event having a few specific names in mind.

The fair is now in its eighth year and the majority of companies have been here in the past, Barritt said.

Jim Paull, human resource director for Gerdau AmeriSteel, said that coming to UF always is a success for the company because of the level of the student body at UF.

"We have recruited several graduates from the program that are placed in different areas of the company," Paull said.

He said that UF students are extremely well prepared and it seems they have done their research beforehand.

"I've been extremely pleased with the quality of the students and the school," said Paul. "The building construction department does an excellent job preparing them."

UF fraternity stolen car in Leesburg

A UF student's car that was stolen from a parking garage behind Hume Hall was found in the city of Leesburg on Tuesday.

The 1966 Ford Mustang belonging to freshman Andrew Topper, was reported stolen Tuesday, although Topper said he wasn't sure when it was removed from the lot.

"I went to go run some errands yesterday, and my car wasn't there," Topper said. "I hadn't driven it for a while, so it could have been stolen anytime between [Monday] and last Tuesday."

Police found the car in Leesburg, said University Police spokesman Joe Sharkey.

"The supplement report said that the ignition had been punched out, and that the car had been stripped," Sharkey said.

"The car has not yet been returned to Topper."

"There was some damage to the car so it needs to be fixed before I can get it back," Topper said, unaware of how much the repairs will cost.

"They must have picked the lock and then hot-wired it," he said.

"With old cars that's pretty easy to do, so I guess a good security system is the way to go," Topper said.

Police do not have any leads or suspects, Sharkey said.

— Stoney Ackroyd
UF study predicts Florida population to quadruple

By Stoney Ackroyd
Alligator Writer

Florida’s population is expected to quadruple to 24.4 million people by 2030, according to the latest projections by UF.

“We’re expecting pretty regular growth with between 2.62 and 2.99 million people in each of the next three decades,” said June Nogle, a demographer with UF’s Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

Most of the population increase, nearly 8 million residents, will come from out of state, Nogle said.

“We then eliminate the outliers to produce a number of possible growth predictions,” she said.

The projections will help state officials plan for transportation and social services needs in the future, she said.
Three students named finalists

By Amy Perelman
Alligator Writer
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Three UF students are among 212 students named as finalists for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

Steven Cohen, Valerie Lynch and Teresa Porter were selected to represent UF for the national scholarship.

“I’m honored that the Truman Foundation has selected me as a finalist,” said Cohen, an economics junior.

“This opportunity serves as a confirmation of all of the hard work that I’ve done. It’s an incredible feeling when other people who have made such incredible accomplishments in my field recognize me, and it inspires me to do more.”

Cohen founded Friends for Life of America, a student-run organization that provides support for pediatric patients living with cancer.

Lynch, a political science junior, said she is thrilled about becoming a finalist.

“UF hasn’t had a lot of finalists in the past, so I’m honored I was chosen,” said Lynch.

“I’m going with one of my best friends [Cohen] to Atlanta to be interviewed for the Truman Scholarship, so I’m really excited.”

Lynch is involved in the Delta Zeta Sorority, Students in Free Enterprise – a business organization – and the North-Central Florida chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

An applicant must be a full-time junior at a four-year institution, in the upper 25 percent of their class and a U.S. citizen or national.

After a committee reviews applicants, a regional review panel, which is composed of former Truman Scholars, college and university presidents and senior public servants, interviews the final five.

Cohen, Lynch and Porter will go to Atlanta in two weeks to be interviewed.

Tape urges Iraqi suicide attacks

New bin Laden tape gives links between Iraq, al-Qaida.

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates – An audiotape purported to carry the voice of Osama bin Laden called on Iraqis to carry out suicide attacks against Americans and defend themselves against a U.S. attack.

The tape was broadcast on the al-Jazeera Arab satellite station Tuesday, the first day of the Muslim holiday Eid Al-Adha.

The speaker also urged Iraqis to dig trenches and engage in urban warfare to fend off U.S. troops and called on Muslims to rise up against several U.S.-allied governments in the region.

“We stress the importance of martyrdom operations against the enemy, these attacks that have scared Americans and Israelis like never before,” the speaker said, using a term often used by militants for suicide attacks.

U.S. counterterrorism officials in Washington said the audio message was probably a real recording of bin Laden, and that a technical analysis was planned to authenticate it.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was unclear when the recording was made but said it was probably recent, given all the attention the speaker gave to Iraq.

In an interview with al-Jazeera aired after the tape, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the recording shows that Iraq and al-Qaida “are bound by a common hatred.”

“He threatens everybody in the Arab world except Saddam Hussein,” Boucher said.

“We are saying Iraq is giving a haven to this group.”

It was not clear if any Iraqis heard Tuesday’s broadcast.

Satellite dishes are banned in the country, limiting access to al-Jazeera, and it was not immediately known if Iraqi stations or international radio stations that can be heard in Iraq aired the statement.

Before the broadcast, Secretary of State Colin Powell told a Senate panel Tuesday that he had read a transcript of the statement and that it shows why the world needs to be concerned about Iraqi ties to terrorism.

Powell said that on the tape, “bin Laden — or who we believe to be bin Laden … once again speaks to the people of Iraq and talks about their struggle and how he is in partnership with Iraq.”

Washington insists that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is linked to bin Laden’s al-Qaida terror network and cites that as one reason to launch military action against Iraq.

Presidential hopeful to have surgery

WASHINGTON – Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry announced Wednesday he will undergo surgery to remove his cancerous prostate, pledging to beat the disease and “get on with the campaign.”

“I am lucky,” Kerry said. “I’m going to be cured.”

Kerry, 59, the junior senator from Massachusetts, said he was diagnosed with an early stage of cancer and would return to work in a matter of days.

Dr. Patrick Walsh, the urology chief at Johns Hopkins Hospital who pioneered a safer form of prostate removal, will perform the surgery Wednesday morning. In a telephone interview arranged by the Kerry campaign, Walsh said the patient has “a very early, curable” form of cancer.

“I look forward to going in tomorrow morning and getting it done and getting on with the campaign,” Kerry said at a Capitol Hill news conference. “I’m confident about my capabilities to get on with the campaign.”

The surgery complicates Kerry’s bid to win the Democratic presidential nomination, but with the first voting still 11 months away, aides characterized the disease as a minor setback.

The candidate did not seem entirely comfortable with the topic, rarely using the word “cancer” and waiting several minutes into the news conference to describe the diagnosis.

Kerry has not formally announced his presidential plans.
SCHOLARSHIPS

The University of Florida has nominated four students for a national scholarship from the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. The foundation provides scholarships and recognition to college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in public service.

Marshall Baker, an agricultural education major, intends to pursue her education degree and work to provide improvements to schools. Baker serves as a College of Agricultural and Life Sciences ambassador. Her policy proposal encourages the enhancement of early childhood development by improving resources to low-income families, teachers and schools.

The second nominee, Steven Cohen, is an economics major in the Warrington College of Business. He plans to obtain a master's in health finance and management, and a doctorate in health and public policy. Cohen's policy proposal suggested amending Medicare to cover the costs of all oral anti-cancer treatments and to grant financial incentives to pharmaceutical companies that reduce the costs of these treatments to the American public.

Valerie Lynch is a political science major with minors in philosophy and English. She intends to seek a master's in health policy focusing on issues of the mentally ill. She has served as vice-president of Friends for Life of America and secretary of the Honors Ambassadors. She is a member of Delta Zeta sorority and currently is serving as Miss Ocala/Marion County.

The final nominee, Teresa Porter, is majoring in political science and sociology. She currently serves as president of the Panhellenic Council at UF and as Florida state representative to the Southeastern Panhellenic Conference. Her policy proposal is related to her internship with the Alachua County State Attorney's Office Project Payback, which provides scholarships and recognition to students majoring in political science and sociology.

Next week's Body Acceptance Week

Guest columnist

Helen F. Bowden, Eating Disorders Graduate Coordinator

Next week we celebrate Body Acceptance Week. It's a time to depart from calorie counting and dieting and to thank your body for all the wonderful things that it lets you do each and every day.

"You are beautiful the way you are." Now, there's a message you rarely, if ever see on TV. In today's world of mass media and advertising, we are constantly bombarded by images of ultra-thin women like Calista Flockhart and muscular men like Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"So what?" you may be thinking. "That's life." Well, unfortunately, there is a well-documented connection between TV and fitness/fashion magazine consumption and body dissatisfaction/disturbed eating. Many men and women gaze upon those bronze, muscled Adonises and skinny, busy beauties and naturally feel inadequate by comparison. Nowhere in a disclaimer is all the suffering, starvation, hours of make-up and computer retouching that's involved in creating these seemingly "perfect" images. We are made to think not only that it's easy, but also that we should want to lose weight and become fit just like the stars.

Why would the advertisers want us to feel badly about our bodies? So we'll buy their products (of course), which are lauded as "the" answers to our body-esteem woes. That's why Americans spend $30 billion to $50 billion dollars a year on weight-loss products and $51 billion a year on cosmetics. One study showed that people were spending $180 per pound less. Considering that 90 percent of those who lose 25 pounds or more regain the weight they lose (and usually more) within two years, and 98 percent regain the weight within five years, I'd say that an awful lot of people are being scammed. The reason: The body has an internal weight that it strives to maintain (a set point), and your metabolism actually slows down when you diet in order to conserve energy, and your metabolism much more than a number on a scale.

Unfortunately, most women do feel badly about their bodies. Did you know that up to two-thirds of women feel dissatisfaction with some part of their bodies, and that 80 percent to 90 percent of dieters are women? This trend has sadly infiltrated our youth. Several researchers have found that about 70 percent of 10-year-old girls are currently dieting.

What's more, most women view their bodies unrealistically and believe they are larger than they are. In fact, one study showed 70 percent of young women in the United States and England thought they were overweight, even though they were within their normal weight ranges.

Here's a news flash: Dieting, especially yo-yo dieting and restrictive eating, is associated with hypertension, increased serum cholesterol, kidney and heart problems, gastrointestinal problems and even death. People who are on very low calorie diets have a death rate 40 times higher than the normal population. One study by the American Cancer Society that followed 800,000 men and women for six years found no connection between weight gain and mortality rates. In fact, only weight loss was associated with higher death rates.

Aside from the health risks, think about how much time you actually spend every day thinking or talking about calories, fat, weight and exercise. That's a lot of time each week wasted. And the inevitable outcome is feeling more inadequate and dissatisfied with your body.

So, what can you do? For starters, believe in your power to make a difference. If you see an ad that negatively portrays men or women and perpetuates unrealistic body types, e-mail them. The company keeps incident reports of all e-mails received and if they get enough of them, they will change their ads. Also, don't buy products sponsored by companies that use stressful or sexist advertising. If there's one motivator to big business, it's money.

Invest time in exploring your strengths. Take a leisure course on something you've always wanted to try. Make a list of all your great qualities that have nothing to do with appearance and remind yourself about them often. Take up yoga or meditation. In other words, participate in activities that make you feel good about yourself and your body. Then, participate in activities that make you feel good about your body.

To celebrate Body Acceptance Week, come by the Student Health Care Center between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday through Feb. 20 and join in free food, massages, prizes and many fun activities. Celebrate your body and focus on your strengths. You're worth it.

New dean named for the Levin College of Law

University of Missouri law Professor Robert Jerry has been named dean of the University of Florida's Fredric G. Levin College of Law, effective July 1. Jerry succeeds Jon Mills, who will remain on the law faculty and with the college’s Center for Governmental Responsibility, which he directs.

"We are very fortunate to have Professor Robert Jerry taking the helm at the Levin College of Law," UF Provost David Colburn said. "We believe he offers the Levin College of Law great leadership for the future, and I am delighted that he has accepted our offer."

Jerry, 49, currently is the Floyd R. Gibson Missouri Endowed Professor of Law at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, where he has been on the faculty since 1994. From 1994 to 1998, he held the Herff chair at the University of Memphis School of Law. He taught at the University of Kansas School of Law from 1981 to 1994, where he also served as dean from 1989 to 1994. His teaching and published book/articles focus on insurance law, contracts, and health-care finance and access.

Jerry received his bachelor's degree magna cum laude in 1974 from Indiana State University and his law degree cum laude in 1977 from the University of Michigan. After clerking for Circuit Judge George E. MacKintosh in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, he practiced law from 1978 to 1981 with Barnes Hickam Panter & Boyd of Indianapolis.

Pisani assumes presidency of advertisers

Dr. Joseph R. Pisani, a professor of advertising in the UF College of Journalism and Communications, is the 2003 president of the American Academy of Advertising. Academy membership includes 600 advertising and marketing educators and professionals worldwide. Pisani served one year as president-elect and two years as treasurer before assuming the presidency. He has been a member of the academy for 38 years and is its first president from UF. The academy publishes the Journal of Advertising, widely regarded by academics as the most prestigious advertising journal. Pisani has been at UF since 1973. He led the Department of Advertising for 19 years before stepping down in June 2001.
"Aida," Hubbard Dancer troupe coming to Phillips Center

The internationally successful company Teatro Lirico D’Eurropa will bring its lavish production of the tragic opera "Aida" to the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Feb. 21.

A pre-performance discussion takes place at 7 p.m. in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom. In ancient Egypt during the time of the pharaohs, the opera is the tragic story of an Ethiopian slave, Aida, who is torn between passionate love for Radames, captain of the Egyptian army, and loyalty to her fatherland. The opera demands a large chorus, a full orchestra, impressive scenery and extravagant costumes.

Also coming to UF this month, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago brings cutting-edge choreography and a Gainesville native to the Phillips Center at 8 p.m. Feb. 22.

Theatrical jazz, modern and classical ballet, and athleticism combine to create the unparallel contemporary dance troupe.

Gainesville native Laurie Sallings -- who has danced with BalletMet, Apply for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender awards

The University of Florida Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or LGBT, Concerns Committee announces its Third Annual Awards competition.

Two $500 awards will be given out to UF students: one each to an undergraduate and a graduate student. Applicants must demonstrate excellence in either service or research.

Applications must be submitted by March 7.

For more information about the complete application process, visit www.aa.ufl.edu/committees/lgbtcc.htm, or contact Carlos Hernandez at hernandez@counsel.ufl.edu; Gwynn Kessler at 392-1625, or gkessler@religion.ufl.edu; or Amanda Wolfe at 392-0375, or 392-1575, or akwolf@fas.ufl.edu.

Engineers Week starts Sunday

Engineers Week at UF begins Sunday and will be filled with events that feature the many innovations and contributions engineering makes to the community and the world of technology.

The event kicks off Sunday with Engineering Field Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Reitz Union North Lawn. The event features free food and games, race and obstacle courses, balloon battles, timed puzzles, mazes and more.

At 11 a.m., Soapbox derby cars will race down the hill on Center Drive. Cars will be judged on design, originality, craftsmanship, appearance and speed. For more information, visit http://grove.ufl.edu/ -engineer/documents/soapbox_derby.pdf.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Engineering & Science Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom. The two-day event will showcase the latest engineering technology explored by the university and private sectors. Visitors will see numerous robots, concrete canoes, nitrogen ice cream, and other fantastic displays.

The event will be in Dauer Hall, Room 215. Program directors will be there to share detailed information. Students who already signed up for the program are encouraged to attend and meet other participants.

Counseling Center offers help, services

The University Counseling Center offers counseling and student development services to currently enrolled students and their spouses/partners. The center is staffed by counselors and psychologists whose primary interests and goals are to facilitate the growth and development of each student and to assist them secure the greatest benefit from their college experience.

Some of the groups being offered this term at Peabody Hall, Room 301, include:

- Mondays: Women's Empowerment, 1:30-3 p.m.; Taming the Anxious Mind, 1-2:30 p.m.; Dream Interpretation, 12:30-1:40 p.m.; Men and Relationships, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays: Stress Management, 1-2:30 p.m.; Journaling as Self-Therapy, 3-4:30 p.m.; Math Confidence, Tuesdays, 3-5 p.m.; Women of Color, Tuesdays 2-3:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: Women of Color, 1:15-2:45 p.m.; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Empowerment Group, 1:30-3 p.m.; Women of Color, 3 p.m.
- Thursdays: General Therapy, 2-3 p.m.

These groups are for students struggling with feelings of low self-esteem, dissatisfaction in their relationships, interpersonal difficulties, depression, family conflicts, identity issues or other personal concerns.

For more information come by the Counseling Center at Peabody Hall, Room 301; call 392-1575 or visit the web site at: www.counsel.ufl.edu.

Florida Frontiers Lecture Series

The Florida Frontiers Lecture Series presents Michael Carlson, a professor emeritus of history at UF, presenting "Cities in Modern Florida: History," at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

All Florida Frontiers lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, call 846-2862.
Graham questions Bush's $120 million land valuation

The Associated Press

MIAMI -- Sen. Bob Graham wants the Bush administration to justify spending $120 million to buy oil and gas rights from a pioneering Florida family to protect the Everglades and the state's pristine beaches from drilling.

The proposed buyout of the Collier family would nullify its substantial oil and gas rights in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge and Big Cypress National Preserve, which is adjacent to Everglades National Park in southwestern Florida.

Graham spokesman Paul Anderson said Tuesday the senator, who is recovering from heart surgery, has asked the Department of Interior to explain how the government reached the valuation of the rights since last spring but has not received any information.

The senator said he was "mad as hell" when he learned that a $40-million down payment had been included in President Bush's proposed 2004 budget. Anderson said Graham is concerned that the $120 million payment may be too exorbitant, he said.

"He has agreed with the goal of buying out the mineral rights just as he has agreed with the goal of buying out leases in offshore drilling off the coast of the Gulf of Mexico," Anderson said.

"The question is the dollar value, and he doesn't think it should be proceeding until they can explain the justification."

Collier family spokesman Bob Duncan referred calls to the interior Department. The Barron Collier family, for which Collier County is named, acquired huge holdings in southwest Florida in the early 1900s.

Hugh Vickery, an Interior spokesman, said the land was evaluated by the department's Mineral Management Service, and an independent consultant reviewed the assessment and said the methodology used was appropriate.

Vickery said the $120 million figure was within the range of valuations that the MMS came up with for the mineral rights.

He could not immediately describe the range because it involved proprietary information provided by the company during negotiations. Vickery said the department has shared information requested by Graham and was working to set up a meeting with the senator or his staff.

Russia warns against military action without consent

The Associated Press

LONDON -- The United States' drive to disarm Iraq by force hit mounting global opposition Tuesday, with Russia warning that military action without U.N. consent would be a "grave error" and China backing it.

Moscow, whose support and trade ties are crucial for the United States, said it had been shelved its opposition to military action against Iraq, the United Nations hopes to get approval for tough action against Baghdad. President Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, met Blix on Tuesday to discuss the inspection process in Iraq, a senior U.S. official said.

Russia and China, which both have veto power on the Security Council, could eventually mute their opposition to military action against Iraq if they conclude war is inevitable. Neither Moscow nor Beijing is eager to risk a major breach with Washington, whose support and trade they both need.

But the vocal opposition to U.S. plans reflects growing concern about unbridled American power in the 21st century, and the flurry of diplomatic activity in Paris and other capitals was as much an attempt to curb Washington's dominance as to save Iraq.

If the United Nations does not authorize military action against Iraq, the United States reserves the right to take action along with a handful of key allies such as Britain. But a U.S. decision to flout the will of other major powers could severely strain the post-Cold War structure of global politics.

"I am convinced that it would be a grave error to be drawn into unilateral action, outside of international law," Russian President Vladimir Putin told France's TF1 television on Tuesday.

Putin said he saw no need at present for Russia to use its veto as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. But asked if Russia would support France if it uses its veto, Putin said: "If today a proposition was made that felt would lead to an unreasonable use of force, we would act with France or alone."

Chinese President Jiang Zemin told French President Jacques Chirac during a phone conversation that U.N. inspections were working and it was vital to avoid war.
Chairman criticizes tax cuts

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan dealt a blow to President Bush’s drive for new tax cuts on Tuesday, saying he did not believe the economy needed further stimulus and warning Congress to be “very careful” to keep budget deficits from exploding.

Greenspan, who two years ago lent critical support to Bush’s first round of $1.35 trillion in tax cuts, threw cold water on the new $1.3 trillion package. Bush is seeking $770 billion in accelerated tax cuts and elimination of taxes on stock dividends as part of a stimulus program. The rest of the package is devoted to making the 2001 tax cuts permanent. They are now due to expire after 2010.

Delivering the Fed’s twice-a-year report on the state of the economy, Greenspan said that while war worries were weighing on business investment, the economy was poised for a significant rebound once that uncertainty passes.

“I am one of the few people who is still not as yet convinced that stimulus is a desirable policy,” Greenspan told the panel.

He told the Senate Banking Committee that Congress needed to “be very careful not to allow deficits to get out of hand, especially when we are going to be running into a significant problem starting 2010, 2012 and beyond,” with demands retired baby boomers will be making on the Social Security and Medicare programs.

Democrats, who have attacked Bush’s tax-cut proposals as too expensive and too tilted toward the wealthy, quickly praised Greenspan’s comments.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle called Greenspan’s remarks “a kiss of death” for the Bush package. Sen. Kent Conrad, the Budget Committee’s top Democrat, said Greenspan had been “clear and unambiguous about the importance of curbing deficits.”

The White House sought to limit the damage from Greenspan’s comments, noting that he did restate his long-held view that the current policy of taxing dividend income twice — once at the corporate level and again when investors receive the dividend payments — should be eliminated.

However, Greenspan said that given the worsening deficit picture, the Bush proposal to eliminate taxes on dividends paid to investors, which would cost $385 billion over 10 years, should be paid for either by raising other taxes or cutting government spending.
FOR RENT: 1 FURNISHED

"Cold outside? Still get a tan!" 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's, and 5's! Free tanning, weight room, 5 more! Huge specials!
1 Month free! 377-2777 or 336-3838

1-23-72-1

Super Clean Studio
Walk to Shands
Long & short term lease
No tax as $545 monthly
inc all utilities 336-9836

1-23-72-1

2 FOR RENT - UNFURNISHED

Gator Place Apts 3600 SW 23 St
1BR/1BA in the heart of UF! Parking in front of your apt. Pet play park. 500/mo 376-9018. 4-23-72-2
Quiet, clean, green space, Rustic Charm, 1BR apt $300/mo. Call 372-6881 or mobile 213-3901. 4-23-72-2

ACROSS FROM UF
Studies and BR's lining from $350
Luxury 2 BR from $450 per BR.
Free Parking, pets OK.
OPEN WEEKENDS 371-7777

LYONS SPECIAL $89 1st month's rent

CAMDEN W/ DISCOUNTS

WAKE UP LATE
Student's, 1's, 2's steps from UF
Huge floorplan! Walk to UF & Bike to UF! Now & Fall!

Downtown Luxury Living
1/1 from $555, 2/2 from $600
3/2 Townhouses only E.
Pool, Covered Parking, Pets OK
OPEN WEEKENDS 371-7777

SUN BAY Apartments
Grad students $99 Deposit
Walk or Bike to Campus.

FOR RENT - UNFURNISHED

Monstrous Floorplans!
Current 2 & 3 BRs, 1, 2, 3, 4 BRs
Pets OK-Alarm-Pool-Bus-Bhair
FREE U/F PARKING! RENT $4002
Specials too, open weekends

A HUGE DEAL NOW!!
1, 2, 4 & 6 BRs from $569 w/UF
Amenity, Gym membership, Park FREE with UF!

LUXURY AT UF
W/D, Alarm, Balconies, 100 ft.

2 FOR RENT - UNFURNISHED

FOR RENT: Furnished
FOR RENT: Unfurnished
Sublease: House/Apt.
Real Estate
Furniture/House Items
Computers
Bicycles

How to place a classified ad:
In Person:
Cash, check or MC or Visa
The Alligator Office
1105 W. University Ave.
M: 8, 8 - 4 pm

By Mail:
Use forms appearing weekly in the Alligator. Sorry, no cash by mail.
MC, Visa or checks only.

By Phone 373-FIND:
Payment by Visa or Mastercard
ONLY $5.00 minimum.
M: 8, 8 - 4 pm

How to correct or cancel your ad:
Cancellations: 373-FIND Mon-Fri.
No refunds can be given.
Check your ad the FIRST day it runs.
Call 373-FIND with any corrections before noon. THE ALLIGATOR IS ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIRST DAY THE AD RUNS. Corrected ads will be extended one day. No refunds on ads can be given after placing the ad. Changes called in after the first day will not be compensated.

Customer error or changes:
All classifieds must be in person at the Alligator Office, BEFORE 5pm;
There will be a $2.00 charge for the correction.

When will your ad run?
Classifieds begin TWO WORKING DAYS after you place them. Ads placed at the Hub may take THREE days to appear. Ads may run for any length of time and be cancelled at any time. No refunds will be given for cancelled ads.

University Affiliated Property:
1BR/1BA amenities, W/D, pool, parking, quiet/study envrmnt, Mill Run, 1/2 mile to UF, available on an equal opportunity basis.

Classifications:

Classified

502

Florida State University

503

Alligator Classifieds

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1BR/1BA amenities, W/D, pool, parking, quiet/study envrmnt, Mill Run, 1/2 mile to UF, available on an equal opportunity basis.

Classifications:
4 ROOMMATES

WE NEED A ROOMMATE! F to live w/ 4 girls in 5BR house across st. from campus, Rent neg. Desk & bed incl. inc. $350. Call Sandy 305-794-8267 or Jessica 305-350-9514. 2-13-4-4

A short long term avail. No lease. M/F, needed to share 2BR/2BA Southfork Oaks townhome near Target. Bed room unfurnished. W/D, no pets. $310mo + 1/2 utils. Call Evie @ 355-9714. 2-14-4-4

Room in 4BR/4BA condo near Oaks Mall. Lg closet & balcony, office, internet. $595 + 1/3 util. Call 330-772-5414 or email roomcomplex103@gmail.com 2-18-10-4

Christian man has room for rent in new NW Gainesville house. $350mo Free util & cable TV/Internet & pool. On bus 355-3896. 2-19-10-4

RENTAL FOR U OF FL GRADE A+ MALE ROOMMATE! Feb 1st. 5 mo to UF, 954-830-8468.

22 blocks to UF. $340/mo + 1/4 UF. 954-830-8468.

4/20-10-4

For sale, roommates in 4BR/4BA house to live w/ 2 male students. Corner of 34th + Archer, $250mo + 1/3 util. 352-376-9790, msg. 2-13-5-4

1 or 2 Roommates wanted for country style house in Newberry area. Horse property. $350mo + 1/2 util & internet. 2-19-5-4

NICE house on NW 43rd St. Large master BR, internet access, $350mo $200 deპets allowed. Call 339-0224. 2-14-6-4

Male roommate needed in 4BR/4BA house 2 miles south of UF. $300mo + 1/3 util. Students only. 352-871-3377 2-14-6-4

For SALE Quadraplex (or condos) with Private Parking. Tripleplex with Private Parking. 60 Seconds to UF. Large units in Excellent condition. $390,000. Tripleplex - $375,000 352-538-2181. 2-43-7-6

4BR/2BA house upscale neighborhood. Colony Park 16 blocks north of UF. $2120. More info 376-9795 or email nicehomegaineville@yahoo.com 2-16-7-4

Office Space - 1219 W. University Ave. 1 block to campus, 1 office util incl. Fridge & coffee maker, internet util incld. Link: .com 352-316-6497 2-21-2-4

1993 FLEETWOOD DOUBLEWIDE FOR SALE. $9500. 6x28ft, 2BD/1BA, Excellent condition. $1,100. Call 378-3864. 2-18-7-5

4 ROOMMATES

Furniture available. New, still in boxes Retail $2100, sacrifice $1100. Must sell. Can deliver. 352-372-8858 2-4-23-7-6

FUTON. Solid oak mission-style frame w/mattress. Brand new, all unused in box. Sat 10am can deliver. 352-377-9846. 2-4-23-7-6

FUTON, DESK & FURNITURE NEW & LARGE PRICES & LARGE SELECTION. Dumas Discount 371-4422. 1201 E. Univ. Av New Used Buy Sell 2-43-7-6

BED-QEN, orthopedic, firm, extra-thick pillow-top, mattress & box. Name brand, new, still in plastic. Sacrifice $160, call 352-372-7490 will deliver 2-43-7-6

FULL SIZE ORTHOPEDIC Pillow top mattress & box. New, unused, still in plastic w/ warranty. Can deliver. Sacrifice $140. Call 352-377-9846 2-43-7-6

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2. Dark brown color
3. Time and again
4. Stained

Across

Clue: This said, "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than he who conquers his enemies; for the hardest victory is the victory over self." A person who counts the trials of life as a难免的 aspects of life, recognizing that they are inevitable and necessary for personal growth. This clue refers to someone who accepts challenges as a normal part of life and does not shy away from difficulties. One word that fits this description is "ALREADY."
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Gators have one-game tuneup before Miami series

By Horacio Ruiz
Alligator Writer
hrui@alligator.org

Friday's opening-day game had Mercer up 3-0 in the bottom of the fourth inning, the crowd out of the game, and the press box growing cynical.

The Gators, who won the game by 10 runs, know it can happen again.

The UF baseball team (2-0) faces Charleston Southern (1-2) today at 5:30 p.m. in McKethan Stadium as part of a one-game, mid-week series with Miami coming up next for a weekend series. But the Gators have no intentions of taking a sneak peak at the Hurricanes.

"We're definitely not looking past Charleston Southern," redshirt freshman Stephen Barton said. "They have a good ball club. We're going to take it one game at a time."

Barton, who was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Week after his 6-for-10 performance against Mercer, is one of the many Gators making the most of their playing time.

Because UF is so young, the team is not taking any games for granted, especially with competition for starting spots still very much alive.

"There's definitely a lot of emotion going on in us," Barton said. "A lot of intensity. A lot of first games for the new players."

Even though Charleston Southern has a losing record, it was used to pull off an 8-5 upset against No. 8 South Carolina on Saturday. Friday's game also was heavily contested with the Gators holding a 7-2 lead at one point, before losing 9-7.

"This club's worked real hard to prepare themselves game by game, day by day," Coach Pat McMahon said. "When you walk through the tunnel, you're prepared to give everything you have every day to help the club get better."

With the cancellation of Sunday's game against Mercer, McMahon was not able to carry out his plan of letting other players into the game.

Today, he plans to use the pitchers and hitters he would have used on Sunday, with some variation in the pitching staff.

Sophomore pitcher Mike Pete, who was slated to start in Sunday's game, will get the start. Because the rain out occurred with two days before the next game, Pete was unaffected and said he is ready to pitch.

"It's disappointing not playing when you're ready to go," he said. "But it's just one of those things you got to get through."

Pete, who mainly was used as a relief pitcher last season, also was used as a No. 4 starter, making nine starts and pitching 48.1 innings.

McMahon has praised his players for their effort the first two games but said they need to get better at "completing plays" and to improve their consistency on the field and in the pitching areas.

He was concerned with the three fielding errors in the Mercer series and with pitchers going deep in their counts by missing the strike zone.

Before the season started, UF redshirt freshman Stephen Barton was 6 for 10 in two games against Mercer during the weekend. The infielder/designated hitter is the Southeastern Conference Player of the Week.

SFCC’s hoops programs mirror UF’s

By Louis Anastasio
Alligator Contributing Writer

The men’s basketball team has a chance at winning its conference title outright, while the women’s team is struggling to win another game.

Does this sound familiar? A few miles northwest of the UF campus, the Santa Fe Community College basketball teams are going through seasons similar to the Gators men and women’s basketball teams.

The SFCC men’s basketball team (22-5, 5-2 Mid-Florida Conference) finds itself in the hunt for the MFC outright, while San Filippo has been able to pull off an 8-5 upset conference, they will receive a bid to play in the PFCA State Tournament next month.

Although the Saints are coming off a home victory against Central Florida Community College, they control their own destiny at this point.

SFCC coach Scott McMillin is looking for a championship effort and leadership to close out the season.

"We have to understand we can always do better," McMillin said. "We have to do a better job defensively and on the boards. [They] understand what they have to do personally to help the team win."

The Saints’ next matchup comes this Saturday at Daytona Beach Community College.

In fact, both teams face identical overall records of 8-13.

SFCC coach Chanda Stebbins makes the comparison of teams more similar considering she is a former UF volleyball and basketball player.

In this first campaign as coach of the Saints, Stebbins said she senses the similarity of years between her and the Gators coach, Carolyn Peck.

"It's been a difficult season," Stebbins said. "I think we're going through some of the same growing pains, but certainly on a younger scale."

Stebbins said she hopes her team can build upon these final games and pave the way for a successful future.

"I want them to begin to play physically as they're capable of," said Stebbins. "I want to see them bring 150 percent for every game."

Perhaps a sign of better things to come is the Saints’ outrebounding of Central Florida Community College, in spite of the loss last Saturday.

SFCC looks to rebound this weekend when it faces Daytona Beach Community College.

Volleyball chosen as host for regional

The UF volleyball team has been chosen as one of the sites for the 2003 NCAA Volleyball Regional, joining Hawaii, Nebraska and Long Beach State as the four pre-determined campus sites chosen for the 2003 NCAA Tournament.

The regional will be played in Gainesville Dec. 12-13. This is the first season in which pre-determined campus sites have been implemented.

"Pre-determined regional sites is a step our sport needed to make," UF coach Mary Wise said. "The fact Gainesville is chosen shows not only a commitment from our administration but our community as well. We have demonstrated in the past that we will run a first-class event.

"This much we know: The east regional will be in Gainesville. We can promote and look forward to that all year. But as we told the players, there is no guarantee that we will be here. We have to earn that right."

The NCAA has not guaranteed that the host school will play in its own region, but it is a likely scenario, even if the school does not receive one of the top four seeds.

UF has hosted the NCAA Regional six times, with the last coming in 2002.

Last year, the Gators advanced to the national semifinals, falling to eventual national champion Southern California 3-1.
Gators face Mississippi next in crucial SEC stretch

By Jeremy Fowler
Alligator Staff Writer
jfowler@alligator.org

Saturday proved UF can rebound. Wednesday will prove if it's still the Gators' party.

After taking a big hit from Kentucky and countering with a 75-56 win against Alabama, the No. 4 Gators (19-3, 8-1 Southeastern Conference) enter a crucial stretch that includes the last seven SEC games starting with Mississippi (12-8, 3-6 SEC) in the O'Connell Center.

The importance of the final conference games is amplified as teams try to gain momentum entering the SEC and NCAA Tournaments.

UF coach Billy Donovan said he doesn't want his players getting too ahead of themselves — the SECs come first, then they'll worry about the NCAA seedings and RPI ratings.

"I don't think our players understand all that stuff," said Donovan, who could clinch a fifth consecutive 20-win season with a win. "The only player who may understand all of that is Matt Bonner.

The Verizon Academic All-American forward may have to understand the severity of each game the most after he went through the 7-8 tailspin made by the Gators in the final 15 games last season.

The combination of Bonner and center David Lee gives UF a height advantage over the Rebels' (12-8, 3-6 SEC) frontcourt, but that same combination wasn't enough to deter last season's 68-51 loss to Mississippi on Feb. 16.

The loss made for the lowest UF point total under Donovan's tenure.

Although UF is on a better track than it was last season, a loss to Mississippi could push them further and further from Kentucky.

Donovan said Mississippi has patience on offense, which means UF has to be the same way to be effective.

"You have to be ready to go deep in the shot clock each possession because they will work the clock and then get it to someone who they want to get isolated one-on-one and try to take advantage of that," Donovan said.

The combination of center David Lee, pictured, and Matt Bonner gives UF a height advantage over the Rebels.

Softball optimistic about season

By Daniel Shanks
Alligator Writer

They've been through a losing season last year and have losses to ranked opponents after the first two weeks of the season. But that doesn't matter to the UF softball team.

Despite recent history, UF coach Karen Johns said she is confident that the Gators can make their presence felt on the national stage.

"Think we could be among the national elite," Johns said. "We have to put it all together.

Johns said that they haven't been able to have the offense, defense and pitching click at the same time.

"I think we have all the elements that a national championship team requires," centerfielder Jenilee Garners aid.

PITCHING STRENGTHS, HITTING WEAKNESS: Although UF's pitchers struggled last season and began this season giving up several walks in the first few games, the Gators do have a strength: their diversity on the mound.

Pitcher Amanda Knowles said the different pitching styles are making it hard for batters to adjust to their styles.

Knowles also said she and Jenny Gladding have a full arsenal of pitches, Amanda Moore has a good sinker and Mandy Schuerman is the power pitcher.

Also, the addition of pitching coach Heather Compton-Butler is expected to make the pitching staff strong this year.

Although Compton-Butler was pleased with the staff's performance in the GRU Classic, she still sees room for improvement, particularly in the need to obtain pop outs and ground outs instead of surrendering weak hits.

"I want to see us throwing better pitches with runners on base," Compton-Butler said.

Meanwhile, while Gladding has had ups and downs on the mound, she has started the season with three hits in 23 at-bats. She said that part of the reason that she's been struggling is because of a preoccupation with mechanics and trying to develop a new swing.
**SPORTS**

**GATORS SHOW FEW SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT**

However much excitement was in the air when the UF women's basketball played Tennessee on Jan. 19, the players tried desperately to squeeze it out.

When each starter's name was called, she would amble to center court of the O'Connell Center with a Nerf-like mini basketball in her hand while trying to spark the crowd.

To most in the intimate group of 2,646 attending the game, it was a rudimentary introduction for the players. But it was really their cry for help.

The 94-53 Gators loss was inevitable. UF men's coach Billy Donovan may have known, too. Heck, he left at halftime.

In the lineup introduction, the team was searching harder for something to smile about than a five-year-old search for Waldo.

Now well into February, the team has totally dismantled, losing nine consecutive games and five by more than 35 points.

The toy ball just doesn't cut it anymore. They won't have 2,646 people in the O'Connell when the Gators play again this year unless Christina Aguilera is giving out Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q and beer at the door.

Well, probably not.

"I don't think I could handle losing five games like that," said UF guard Anthony Roberson, who can make a jump shot from 10 feet out. "I couldn't even imagine feeling that way. I don't think I could go on."

I've never seen anything like it. They don't have a marquee player of any sort to put ease on the situation.

Forget having an Isaiah Thomas-type leader on the court. They don't even have a Kurt Thomas. They don't even have a Kurt Rambis.

Center Vanessa Hayden was the savior last year, but she's transformed into a starting role Sunday at Tennessee.

"I think there is anything structurally wrong," Donovan said.

Donovan played Drejer six minutes in the first half in which he didn't take any shots but did record two assists.

At the start of the second half, Donovan asked Drejer if he was all right to play.

Donovan said Drejer answered, "I'd rather not have you put me in."

After the game, Drejer's foot checked out to be fine.

"I think just think that he is going to be dealing with his body being sore and broken down," Donovan said. "I don't think there is anything structurally wrong."

Donovan said he plans to talk to Drejer about where he is now as far as his health and mentality.

"I think Christian is one of those sensitive and conscientious guys," Donovan said.

He knew it was a big game for us against Alabama and I think he felt like "if I can't give 100 percent and play the way I want to play, then I'm better off not putting myself out there and hurting the team."

Donovan said for the Gators to be the best that they can, UF needs Drejer.

"We've got to get him to get out there and try to provide some help to our team," Donovan said. "For whatever reason, he didn't feel like he was able to do that on Saturday."

ONE STEP AT A TIME: Donovan is making sure the focus of his players is in the right place with the NCAA Tournament approaching and talks of seeding starting to become more prominent.

He said he wants the Gators to just try and think of the Southeastern Conference as their main goal for now.

"I'm coming into a whole new world," Roberson said. "I want to just handle the SEC right now. I think if we handle the SEC right now then when we get there everything else will work itself out."

AWARDS COMING: Roberson's performance this SEC season has started to get the attention of coaches around the league. Both Stan Heath of Arkansas and Jim Harrick of Georgia said they would vote Roberson's as the league's freshman of the year at this point.

"It's an award I would love to have," Roberson said. "An award that if I do receive I'd be thankful for it, but I think right now I'd rather have an SEC championship. That's what I want for us."

As for who Roberson would vote for excluding himself - teammate Matt Walsh.

UF forward Christian Drejer complained about foot soreness to Coach Billy Donovan on the sideline at Saturday's game against Alabama.

Roberson's as the league's freshman of the year at this point.

"It's an award I would love to have," Roberson said. "An award that if I do receive I'd be thankful for it, but I think right now I'd rather have an SEC championship. That's what I want for us."

**HAYDEN CLOSE TO BREAKING BLOCKS RECORD**

"I think if you asked Vanessa, she wouldn't [even be aware of the record]." Peck said. "That's the great thing about this team - nobody is worried about me or 'my time.' What we're worried about is getting that first [Southeastern Conference victory]."

SORRY MS. JACKSON: If there were any positives to be found in Sunday's 79-40 loss at Tennessee, it's that freshman forward Bernice Mosby can take criticism - and it fuels her game. After Peck told Mosby in practice last week that she is one of the worst players on the team at boxing out, Mosby replied by keeping Volunteers star Gwen Jackson off the glass.

The senior forward was held without a rebound for the first time this season.

BREAKS: For the first time since the opening weekend of SEC play, the Gators have a week in which neither of their opponents are ranked in the top 25. With only 6 games remaining and still wireless in conference play, the team knows that if it wants to get a SEC win this season, the time is now.

**RPI STRENGTH:** Despite a nine game losing streak and their much-talked about wireless conference season, the Gators still earned a respectable RPI ranking of 83 out of 300 Division 1 schools.