3 arrested for car shootings

By KRISTEN KRIDEL
Alligator Writer
krakPosted@alligator.org

A UF student and two University of South Florida students were arrested Tuesday on charges of shooting at least five cars in three different apartment complex parking lots off Southwest 34th Street.

According to an arrest report, James Fallon took two Tampa friends, Nathaniel McCowen and Austin Jones, back to his apartment at 3415 SW 39th Blvd., Unit 734, after staying at Gator City Sports Grille and Bullards until it closed.

McCowen and Jones told officers that Fallon asked them if they “wanted to have some fun” and brought out a Ruger Mini-14 .223 rifle and a Ruger .357 magnum handgun.

In a maroon Toyota 4-Runner, the 20-year-olds headed to Stoneridge Apartments with the firearms in hand, Gainesville Police spokesman Keith Kameg said.

At Stoneridge, Fallon pulled out his handgun and fired one round into a Saturn, damaging a front tire and possibly the engine block. Fallon fired a second round into the front and back windshields of a maroon pickup truck, police say.

“They stopped, so I could park in front of them,” said Tom Sudman, an SFCC student who witnessed the incident. “They started firing about 50 feet in front of me; I think it was six shots. I got low to the ground and got a good look at the vehicle, so I could identify it.”

In addition to the windshields of the pickup, the steering wheel, dashboard and driver’s seat were also damaged, said Emily Purvis, the owner of the vehicle.

“Just as we got closer, we heard the coworkers shout, ‘Oh my God, it’s a police car,’” Kameg said.

Fallon fired a second round, bringing out a Ruger Mini-14 .223 rifle and a Ruger .357 magnum handgun. As McCowen reloaded the handgun, Fallon drove to Aspen Ridge Apartments, where he fired another round into the windshields of a blue Jeep Grand Cherokee, police say.

“It would have been so easy for someone to get hurt,” Kameg said. “They were shooting a rifle and one of the most powerful handguns. Those are students’ apartments. People could have been getting home, or someone could have been walking a dog.”

The group then drove the Toyota to Homestead Apartments, the report stated. Fallon took the rifle and fired one round into another vehicle. McCowen also fired his first round into a vehicle in the parking lot, police say.

Next, McCowen drove to Sterling University Glades Apartments, where the Toyota was stopped by GPD Officer John Masden, who recognized the suspected vehicle from calls reporting the shootings.

The men did not have weapons on them when they got out of the Toyota, but the handgun was visible beneath the driver’s seat, Kameg said. Shell casings were on the floor.

The men were arrested under various charges related to discharging a firearm in public and criminal mischief. They are being held at the Alachua County jail.

Since Fallon would not speak to the police, GPD is running an alcohol, tobacco and firearms search to find out where he obtained the guns, Kameg said.

One day at a time

Transplant recipient carries on

By JESSICA ORR
Alligator Staff Writer
jorr@alligator.org

Tanya Lawson wasn’t scared going into the first surgery. She was young and just wanted to get it over with.

The second time was different though – she was ten years older and knew what the recovery was like. The medication. The infections. The exhaustion.

This time she was afraid her body wouldn’t even make it through the operation.

When Lawson, 31, was diagnosed 13 years ago with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis – a lung-deteriorating disease – she didn’t realize how much it would change the lives of her and her two young daughters.

She would have to go through two lung transplants, followed by her body’s rejections of the organs and the complications that come with a major surgery.

“I had no clue,” Lawson said. “I was very naive. I was determined to have the surgery.”

Lawson was the first person to receive a lung transplant at Shands at UF, which ten years later treats hundreds of lung patients a year and has developed a large program providing physical therapy and financial and emotional counseling.

She was the pioneer patient of the Shands program, and six months after a second lung transplant, she now is working to regain a normal life.

Against the odds

Pulmonary fibrosis is a disease affecting four out of every 100,000 Americans, usually between 40 and 80 years old.

The disease causes scar tissue to gradually replace the air sacs, or alveoli, of the lungs, restricting the transfer of oxygen to the bloodstream.

Lawson said she first noticed breathing problems when she

See editorial, pg. 6.

Tanya Lawson, 31, of Archer was the first person to receive a lung transplant at Shands at UF in 1993. She received a second transplant in April 2003.

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See TRANSPLANT, PAGE 11.

See editorial, pg. 6.

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See editorial, pg. 6.
American export

In 1996, Congress passed a law that made it easier and faster to deport aliens convicted of committing a crime. Deportations became virtually automatic, sending waves of Americanized criminals abroad.

Criminal aliens removed

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Americanized criminals abroad.

Washington, D.C. — Most of the deportees, who between 1996 and 2004 were arrested for traffic offenses, thefts, and burglary, could have been deported even earlier, according to a congressional report released Thursday.

"These deportees" have committed a total of 1,226 crimes in the United States, according to the report by the Department of Homeland Security.

The report, which was released by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, is based on data from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Justice.

Since 1996, more than 1 million aliens have been deported from the United States, according to the report.

The report found that more than 60% of the deportees have been arrested for offenses such as theft, burglary, and traffic offenses.

"The deportees have been involved in a variety of crimes, including traffic offenses, theft, burglary, and drug offenses," the report states.

The deportees are from 10 countries, including Mexico, El Salvador, and Jamaica.

The report also found that more than half of the deportees are from countries that have bilateral agreements with the United States, allowing for the deportation of aliens.

The report recommends that the Department of Homeland Security increase its efforts to deport aliens who have been convicted of crimes.

"The Department of Homeland Security should increase its efforts to deport aliens who have been convicted of crimes," the report states.

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UF ranks fifth on ‘bang for your buck’ college list

By JARED LEONE
Alligator Writer

UF ranked fifth on Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine’s annual “bang for your buck” universities list released Monday.

Kiplinger’s rated the top 100 best values in public education based on quality for the price, said Chuck Frazier, vice provost and Academic Affairs senior associate vice president.

Cost-ranking criteria included total cost for in-state students, the average percentage of financial aid met by aid and the average amount of debt a student accumulates before graduation.

UF’s in-state students pay $10,534 a year while out-of-state students see fees of $21,310, according to the report.

“Florida schools are so much cheaper than anywhere else, comparatively,” microbiology junior Ryan McFadden said. “The value of education here is really high.”

However, some officials see UF’s standing as a negative trend.

“We have stretched the economy all we can,” Frazier said. “To make the move ahead the university aspires to make, we need more resources.”

The ranking comes even as state Legislature has slashed funding for state universities, leaving schools with the option of tuition hikes to increase revenue.

Tuition for UF students grew on average by 5 percent this year. However, students say the school still has a lot to offer for a minimal price.

“It’s a great school and it’s not that expensive,” McFadden said.

The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill topped the list for the fourth time in a row.

Quality measures included admission rates, student-faculty ratios, four- and six-year graduation rates, how much each college spends on instruction per student and how much is spent on library resources.

M.E. Rinker, Sr. Hall was officially dedicated Tuesday afternoon in a ceremony lead by UF President Charles Young.

In addition to Young, the program included speakers discussing Marshall Edison Rinker and the building bearing his name.

“He was one of Florida’s great assets,” Young said of Rinker, who died of cancer in 1996 at the age of 91. “We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to honor him.”

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance celebrated the 47,270 square foot building that was completed in March.

It is the first building in the state university system designed using the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System.

Because of this, the three-level building operates on one-third the energy of a conventional academic building.

The building houses the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction — the oldest continuing construction program in the country — at the College of Design.

Marshall Criser, UF Board of Trustees chairman, Jay Stein, College of Design, Construction and Planning dean and Rinker’s son David Rinker also spoke at the ceremony.

Most of the speeches discussed Rinker and how he would have been proud of the building opened 14 years after Rinker first pledged $5 million to the School of Building Construction.

The money pledged enabled UF to procure state matching funds for the building, bringing the total to $9.5 million.

Money continued to be donated, even after Rinker’s death, including a $650,000 pledge in 1999 by the M.E. Rinker, Sr. Foundation, led by David Rinker.

“It is exactly what he would have wanted,” David Rinker said.

“He enjoyed scholarship. He knew the importance of learning things,” David Rinker also said he was speaking not just for himself, but for his family.

His mother, Ruby, and wife, Leighan, attended the event.

David told stories of family trips when his father always would be ready to educate the family.

He liked concrete, David Rinker said. He was glad he was in the concrete business, because he felt it helped people, and Rinker cared about people.

The late Rinker started his career in the 1920s trucking rock and sand around Delray Beach. He build the business into the biggest concrete producer in Florida and sold it in 1988 for $515 million.

Rinker Hall houses the undergraduate and graduate programs of the Rinker School and provides space for four research centers.

THE NEW HOME OF THE SCHOOL OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IS THE FIRST BUILDING IN FLORIDA TO BOAST HEIGHTENED ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.

By MARK BERMAN
Alligator Contributing Writer

The report combined data provided by more than 500 public, four-year colleges and universities and Kiplinger research.

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Kiplinger’s top 10 ‘bang for your buck’ universities:
1. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2. University of Virginia
3. College of William and Mary, Va.
4. University of Georgia
5. University of Florida
7. Georgia Institute of Technology
8. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
9. Truman State University, Mo.
10. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Senate to vote to offer paper

■ STUDENT SENATE GAVE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO A PLAN THAT WILL OFFER STUDENTS FREE USA TODAY ON CAMPUS.

By JARED LEONE
Alligator Writer

A preliminary vote by senators could give students access to the nation’s largest circulation newspaper for free on campus in the near future.

If senators approve the plan again at their meeting next week, then USA TODAY would be available to students at seven locations on campus free of charge.

“I think this is a good first step,” Student Body President Kyle Jones said.

The Senate is expected to approve the $40,000 to cover the cost of the program, which will be paid for with part of students’ tuition earmarked for Student Government, during its next meeting.

The program stipulates that 700 newspapers would be disbursed at the seven locations and for recycling bins to be close by, as well.

The readership program was part of the Ignite Party’s platform when it ran for election this Fall.

“We have crossed off a major [goal] already,” said Jones, a founding member of Ignite.

Ignite currently holds all but one seat in the Student Senate.

The readership program is part of USA TODAY’s plan to make newspapers more available to college students.

The readership program will offer USA TODAY and possibly The New York Times to students at seven various locations around campus.

Jones said he is positive students will benefit from this program because it will make news more available to students who were used to reading the paper before coming to the university.

“I think people will take advantage of it,” he said.

Initially, a readership program representative will spend two weeks taking surveys and passing out newspapers at various places around the university.

“We have crossed off a major [goal] already.”

Kyle Jones
Ignite founding member

The survey would find out what other paper, other than USA TODAY, UF students would like to see on campus, he said.

State universities such as the University of Central Florida and Florida International University already have a similar program in place, Jones said.

The USA TODAY program was established in 1999 and has helped make it the nation’s largest-selling daily newspaper.

Getting the program started is simple, Jones said.

“We have to get the surveys done, get the machines built and get them out there,” he said.

Remains of 4,800-year-old man link to Florida’s past

■ SCIENTISTS TAKE PAINS TO PRESERVE ANCIENT REMAINS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KENANSVILLE — When workers digging up peat at a former central Florida sod farm unearthed human remains with their backhoe, they called the police. But this was a cold case that authorities were unlikely to solve.

The bones found Thursday appeared to be those of a young man who died in his late teens or early 20s about 4,800 years ago, said Anthony Falsetti, a UF associate professor of anthropology.

“It’s quite significant because it ties into some earlier discoveries in the 1980s ... dating back to 8,000 years ago,” Falsetti said Friday. “It continues to fill in the picture of early life ... in Florida.”

The remains are being suspended in water at the lab, so they don’t dry out and crumble into dust.

“Both lived in a simpler time with a simpler life, but this was no primitive.”

David Dickel
Archaeologist

Archaeologists will not photograph the bones, and he will not receive a nickname. Instead, the skeleton is designated as 10-B-03.

The Bureau of Archaeological Research in Tallahassee will survey the site where the remains were found for other signs of a past civilization. Animal bones designed in a decoration were also found with the remains discovered about 50 miles southeast of Orlando, Falsetti said.

After consulting with the two American Indian tribes of Florida, state archaeologist David Dickel said the bones were expected to be reburied in a private ceremony attended only by experts. There will be no marker, to thwart collectors and vandals.

“He lived in a simpler time with a simpler life, but this was no primitive,” Dickel said. “Even though it’s only bones, we think of it as a life.”
Ghettopoly furthers stereotypes

Urbán Outfitters, a popular clothing store for young adults, now has a new accessory besides belts and earrings. Ghettopoly is the board game with such a high demand that it has been selling out in Urban Outfitters around the nation.

The game is a knock-off Monopoly, but has been designed with a catch-penny appeal. Ghettopoly is being marketed toward a young crowd, who are an excellent reflection of the game’s maturity level. The mascot for Ghettopoly is a gun welding, marijuana smoking, 40 oz. guzzling black man, donning a large gold chain and a headband. Rather than the traditional Park Place and B-O Railroad, landmarks include Harlem, the Bronx, a gun shop, Westside Liquors and Smitty’s XXX.

Card instructions include phrases like “You got da whole neighborhood addicted to crack, collect $50.” Players compete to build housing projects, rob banks and receive warnings to “pay up.”

While the creator of the game, David Chang, claims the game is for entertainment value only, black rights activists say the game sends a racist message.

Undoubtedly, Ghettopoly is crude, racist and offensive. It advertises a message about a lifestyle highly popularized in our culture — and an inaccurate message wallowing in the stereotypical depths of ignorance. Sadly, Ghettopoly may simply be a byproduct of a cultural phenomenon — the likeness of an image marketed by the hip-hop industry — as evidenced by the details of the game mirroring the subject matter of many MTV music videos.

Young Americans already are out of touch with the reality, because of teen magazines, a plethora of pop star advertising campaigns and reality TV. Let’s not fuel ignorance. The game preaches degrading comedy which allows for no disclaimer that the cultural message speaks of the same old stereotypical comedy steeped in a history trailing back to black ministerial shows of the 1800s. It packages the same stereotypes in a playful board game and proclaims to create a “new” fad. This is a problem and not simply a black one. It should unsettle anyone unversed by bigotry who looks beyond the colorful packaging.

While Ghettopoly may be more of a gag gift than a game — a piece that will be purchased, played once and thrown in the back of the closet with Dream Phone — its cultural messages still remain as ever pungent.

This is a staff editorial by students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. It originally appeared in the Massachusetts Daily Collegian.

Glasscock on Gregersen's role

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Glasscock on Gregersen's role
Editorial

Join Gainesville
Students should support annexation into city

It doesn’t seem like glamorous work — not even remotely exciting. Analyzing utility bill data and property taxes is hardly the fast-paced work that gets students excited, but to a few, it actually is.

Student Government representatives and city officials have put together plans to try to change the Gainesville city borders. On Nov. 4, students living in the area around Southwest 20th Avenue, which includes The Exchange, Museum Walk and University Terrace West among others, will decide if they want to join Gainesville.

While this political campaign conspicuously is absent of movie stars and porn stars, its relevance to students can’t be ignored.

The Alligator editorial board members decided it’s a step in the right direction.

Sunday afternoon, board members met with SG Lobby Director Toby Philpot, City Manager Wayne Bowers, Gainesville Strategic Planner Karen Snyder and GPD spokesman Keith Kamog, who each provided thorough arguments in favor of bringing the area into the city.

Representatives from the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office were unable to meet with the Alligator.

Becoming part of the city will allow about 5,000 residents of the area, most of whom are students, greater access to city services such as buses and police patrol.

In addition to the increased benefits, students will pay less for electricity and water. Currently, county residents pay 10 percent on top of each electric bill and 25 percent for water to the city because Gainesville Regional Utilities’ services are being used by people not in the city. These will be eliminated if the annexation measure passes.

While property taxes could increase, it is likely that the additional costs will be offset by the decreases in utility taxes and rates by landowners, not student renters. If the landowners who have included utilities in rent still face increased fees, then they could raise student rent, but it would only be to levels that are competitive with other student housing in Gainesville.

We also support annexation because it will provide more students the opportunity to become involved with city government. Their votes could help a student become elected to the Gainesville City Commission or at least support student-friendly candidates. Two years ago, a larger student area successfully annexed prompting the increase from five to seven city commissioners and providing more opportunities for involvement.

Some are wary of the city’s motives for annexation because the area to be incorporated is relatively affluent. City commissioners have not recently asked anyone on the eastside of the county to join the city. However, this is part of the city policy to bring the option only to residential areas that ask to join the city. Twice, the city attempted to initiate a proposal bringing land into the city, and each try failed.

This time, former Student Body President Nikki Fried approached city commissioners during a weekly Monday meeting. SG leaders have been effective in following through with Fried’s initial proposal and now it is up to the residents of the area to decide.

Southwest 20th Avenue is just as urban as any other area in Gainesville, and the city decisions from towing and noise violations to drink specials and bar closings affect the residents of that area as much as their city-dwelling neighbors a few blocks away.

Residents should vote in favor of bringing their voices to the city. They should vote in favor of annexation.

Opinions

Outraged by Charges He’s Lost Control of Iraq Policy, the President Came Out Swinging...

Guest column

Students quick to lost causes

College students are quick to jump on the boycott bandwagon. It’s a phenomenon I’ve never quite understood.

On the first day of classes, freshman swarm Wal-Mart, parents in tow, fighting viciously over the last set of extra-long twin sheets. A few weeks later they lounge around campus wincing about American consumerism, “Wal-Mart is evil. Man, it just is.”

During the presidential race, I stood on the Reitz Union North Lawn basking in the glory of George W. Bush only to have my fantasy of him whisking me away to a Republican wonderland interrupted by some screaming hippies. Apparently building a cement plant near the Ichetucknee River would bring the end of civilization as we know it, and they felt the need to holler about this alleged travesty in the middle of a speaking engagement.

Nice etiquette. By the way, the world still is spinning.

Walking through the Plaza of the Americas, I passed by a group of “students” (I use the term lightly because a few of them hanging around appeared suspiciously older) supporting Dennis Kucinich for president.

Thinking about Kucinich’s campaign agenda necessitates a heartfelt laugh out loud. First, he wants a universal health care system so that we can all go to the doctor without paying … until April 15th when you pay your neighbors’ expenses bloated by government mismanagement.

“Come home, America … and make nonviolence an organizing principle within our society through the creation of a Department of Peace,” said the presidential candidate, hereafter referred to as Moonbeam.

Moonbeam said the cure to world violence is more government bureaucracy. Instead of wasting war, we can consult spiritual advisers and talk to dictators such as Hussein about their feelings.

Good plan. Why didn’t I think of that?

Among the panel of presidential hopefuls, he exemplifies the presidential hopeless. His campaign slogan should be, “If only potheads could remember to vote…”

Alas, their allegiance lies elsewhere. By night the group of scruffy miscreants is content only with satisfying herbally induced munchies, the next day they’re holding up signs in protest of the well known purveyor of grub for chemically altered students everywhere: Taco Bell.

I suspect there is a cute girl somewhere recruiting for the Student Farm Worker Alliance.

Wages aren’t arbitrary. Farm workers relatively are unskilled. There is a large supply of unskilled labor than there is a demand for it (especially when drawing labor from impoverished nations), for this reason, the ability to pick a tomato isn’t valued highly.

Taco Bell is profitable because it offers a cheap product. If they were to double the wages paid to farm workers they would have to lay off many who depend on that income for survival. (If they had a better way of making money, they wouldn’t be picking tomatoes.) In seeking a remedy for this problem, I couldn’t think of an approach more inefficient than urging boycotts of Taco Bell.

Assuming that enough people actually boycotted to make an impact on the bottom line (and this is a big assumption), less profit translates into fewer jobs for those in need.

Maybe the students marching with signs can feel sufficiently self-righteous knowing that they’ve found their cause, but when it comes down to it, they’re doing more harm than good.

If students really cared about the workers they would teach them (and their children) new skills that would increase the worth of their labor rather than begging corporations to give handouts that will never serve to rectify the social and economic ills of other countries.

Now that they have a chance to rebel without their moms finding out, college students seemingly latch on to any one of an assortment of liberal causes without giving too much thought to the facts. If students expect their pleas for world change to be taken seriously, they need to be less emotional, instead do more research and actually make it down to the voting booth.

Devon Nunneley is an international economics and Spanish senior. Her column runs on Wednesdays.

Reader response

Today's question: Should the words "one nation under God" be included in the pledge?

Tuesday's question: Did you register for the football ticket lottery for the Florida-Georgia game?

33% YES
67% NO
96 TOTAL VOTES

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

Boycotting only hurts farmers

Editor: So the big deal now is to boycott Taco Bell. I agree that workers should be paid more for their services, but I refuse to show my opinion by boycotting Taco Bell. Does anyone really think that the mega-corporation of Taco Bell is going to change its workers pay because a few people boycott its products? Of course not, it has millions of customers. If anything, boycotting Taco Bell will hurt the migrant workers. Let’s say Taco Bell did lose a significant amount of money because of the boycotts. Then the workers are going to be fired and will have no money.

Boycotting you have put these workers out of a job and possibly out of a home. Is this what the protesters really want? —Christopher Bland

Graphic details cause concern

Editor: I want to express my concern about the extremely graphic details of some recent articles. For example, the report about the Air Force officer arrested on charges of rape. I do not believe the gory details needed to be in the paper. Imagine if the victim had read the account that next morning.

I think that is distasteful journalism and in no way makes your paper enjoyable reading. Yes, the facts do need to be stated, but not so explicitly as to provide exact details of a horrible crime.

I just ask that you have some respect for the victims and take pride in your work by not using shock value to gain readers. —Jennifer Baker

Performing animals mistreated

Editor: Animals used in circuses, zoos, roadside shows and the like are subjected to abuse in order to provide “entertainment” to patrons. In small, barren cages, forced to sleep on concrete slabs and imprisoned behind iron bars, performing animals often suffer from malnutri
tion, loneliness, the denial of all normal pleasures and behaviors, loss of freedom and independence and even lack of veterinary care.

Animals used for entertainment are subjected to rigorous and abusive training methods to force them to perform stressful, confusing, uncomfortable and even painful acts. Training methods include beatings, the use of electric prods, food deprivation, drugging and surgically removing or impairing teeth and claws. —Sharon Nataline

Castro an inhumane leader, but embargo policy divides

Let me begin by expressing the fact that I don’t think Fidel Castro is a good leader, or even a good person. His actions and policies have hurt many Cubans, and his unwillingness to allow free elections and other democratic reforms is reprehensible. Nevertheless, I believe the United States should lift its 40-year embargo on Cuba for several reasons.

Most prominently, the embargo hasn’t done anything it was supposed to do. I’m not exaggerating. Have any democratic reforms occurred in the past 40 years? No.

All the embargo does is step low-priced American food and medicine from reaching Cuba. Who does this shortage effect? Certainly not Fidel and his cronies. Embargoes of other nations have proven equally ineffective in the past. The U.S. embargo of Iraq served only to bring suffering to millions of Iraqis while Saddam Hussein remained untouched by the lack of supplies.

Has Fidel been undermined by the embargo to the point where the Cuban people wish to depose him? Quite the opposite, actually. Rather than leading to popular revolts, these embargoes simply strengthen dictators by giving them a culprit to point the finger at to explain the problems of their regime.

The embargo came about as a result of our conflict with the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It may have made sense when we saw in the Soviet Union’s inability to allow its citizens freedom. But what needs to be understood is that for 40 years the policy only has harmed the Cuban people.

Lifting the embargo would allow the United States and Cuba to trade, trade that the United States International Trade Commission estimates would provide revenues of between $648 million and $1.2 billion a year to the United States.

Further, opening up trade would help the development of democracy in Cuba. In a policy stance the Bush Administration hopes to gain the support of Cubans at home.

Lifting the embargo would allow the United States and Cuba to trade, trade that the United States International Trade Commission estimates would provide revenues of between $648 million and $1.2 billion a year to the United States.

Surprisingly, this is wrong. The Cuban people already know their country’s situation and living under the rule of a dictator is not a productive life.

Just look at Miami, full of Cuban immigrants that fled an oppressive police state that is impossible to change from the inside. It is a fact that Castro’s brutal suppression and oppression of dissidents is what keeps him firmly in power. Now the Cubans living in America continue to campaign for increasing pressure from the United States to force Castro’s regime to change.

If the global community would support Bush’s policy and pressure Castro, maybe we would see a collapse of the communism in Cuba as we saw in the Soviet Union.

By allowing our own citizens to break the law and provide money to a monster off Florida’s coast, we weaken our chances of bringing freedom to a nation that is being oppressed. By stopping the flow of American dollars, his isolationist noose tightens even more. Even if they never do change, his successor will find that the United States is growing tired of the communist nation’s inability to allow its citizens freedom.

Eventually this change is going to come about and the White House only is trying to speed along the process. This long-past change will bring Cubans the freedom they are entitled to, Cuba libre.

Dale Griffin is a journalism senior. His column runs on Wednesdays.

Dale Griffin
From the Right
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Brett Weingold
From the Left
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Brett Weingold is a philosophy and political science senior. His column runs on Wednesdays.

Another week brings yet another backward-thinking outrage from the left. The lefties are upset now because President Bush developed a three-part plan for fostering democracy in Cuba “intended to hasten the arrival of a new, free, democratic Cuba” and ending the rule of Cuba’s tyrannical Fidel Castro.

The policy would include strengthening and enforcing travel restrictions to the island, ensuring safer routes for Cuban refugees to enter the United States and establishing a commission to plan for Cuba’s transition from communist rule to a free society.

The enforcement of travel is not a blanket stoppage of all travel to Cuba; instead the limits only will affect recreational tourism. Trips to Cuba for academic research, journalism and humanitarian purposes are allowed and will be continued.

The left is not happy about this plan. Currently it is demanding the White House not limit travel to a country that’s tyrannical leader will not let its people leave for fear of not returning. After all, is it our constitutional right to travel to any country and pump money into an economy that is used only to prop up a tyrant?

That’s incorrect, it isn’t a right and if you are willingly circumventing a law by going through a third country, you will not be free from prosecution once you get back.

Now the argument you’re going to hear is that with an influx of tourism from the United States you will have an influx of new ideas to the island that will open the eyes of the Cuban people and teach them that there is another way of living.

Surprisingly, this is wrong. The Cuban people would view Cuba as we saw in the Soviet Union.

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Alachua resident
Letters to the Editor

New ticket system available

Editor: With Midnight Madness this Friday night and the basketball season just around the corner, I wanted students to know that a great new system is in place to attend Gators basketball games.

Now students can make plans to go to basketball games and not worry about standing in a line for hours in hopes of getting a seat. This will give everyone fairer access to games and keep safety first. Best of all, it's still free to see us play.

For students who attended at least eight games last season, they can register for games beginning Oct. 20. Other students may register beginning Oct. 27 by logging onto my.ufl.edu or www.gatorzone.com and signing up for the available games throughout the season. Students will find out instantly if they have a seat, and if so, are guaranteed a seat for that game if they are there by tip-off.

To sit in the lower Rowdy Reptile section, students may want to arrive earlier on game day and wait in line. For weekend games, line-ups begin at 9 p.m. the day before the game. Thanks for the tremendous support in making the O'Connell Center one of the most difficult places to play in all of college basketball. I look forward to seeing each student this Friday.

Billy Donovan
UF men's basketball coach

Policy destroys "Billyberg"

Editor: The University Athletic Association has taken a torch to Billyberg. For those not in the know, Billyberg was the small town erected at the corner of Stadium and North-South Drives before almost every Gators basketball game.

In the past, students have been the definition of school spirit, spending days camped out to have the privilege to cheer for basketball. The sight that sends the message of faithfulness to Billy Donovan and his team has been replaced by the typing and mouse clicks as students reserve tickets on the UF Web site.

In a time when athletic success is limited to volleyball and soccer, the upcoming basketball season has been the saving grace of our pride.

Without the passion of students who spent days waiting to see the game, that school pride may erode like a 23-point lead in Miami.

This winter remember the town that was the mecca of what it was to be a Gator. Billyberg is just Gate 3 now, thank you UAA.

Steven Gilmore
4LS

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**Hiring of Machen leaves Utah with a job opening**

By WARREN KAGARISE
Alligator Writer
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Utah education officials have taken their first step toward finding a replacement for University of Utah President Bernie Machen, who is expected to become UF president on Jan. 5.

Machen, a leader credited with raising the U's academic standards and increasing the number of minority students, faculty and staff, will be difficult to replace, search officials said Tuesday.

The Regents, the governing body for Utah’s nine public universities, announced Monday that one of their own will lead the search to replace Machen, who was picked to be UF’s 11th president Oct. 8.

“The first thing the search committee will do will be to determine selection criteria,” said David Buhrer, Utah associate commissioner of higher education. He noted that it is “very, very early in the process” and that guidelines had not yet been written.

“You guys stole him,” Buhrer joked. “Now we’ll just steal someone else.”

During the next two weeks, Utah Regents Jim Jarvi and Gavin Poynter will interview finalists for the search.

An interim president probably will be appointed by the Regents to fill Machen’s post.

Machen has served as Utah’s president since 1998, after a two-year stint as the University of Michigan provost. The next Utah president will be picked during an open session of the search committee after a series of secret interviews and closed meetings.

In contrast to UF’s open presidential search — mandated by the Florida Sunshine Laws — only the names of the finalists for the U presidency will be released, though Utah law does not require it.

**AUTO SAFETY**

**Report doubts safety of SUVs, small cars in crashes**

DEATHS IN ROLLOVERS WERE MUCH HIGHER IN SUVs THAN IN CARS.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — Mid-size sport utility vehicles are nine times as likely to be involved in fatal rollover crashes, are twice as likely to kill the occupants of other vehicles in crashes, a government study says.

Highway Traffic Safety Administration examined fatality data from 1995 to 2000 to determine which vehicles were involved in fatal rollover crashes. Analysis found the fatality rate for passenger cars to be involved in fatal rollover crashes was 3 deaths per 100 million miles driven. Among small passenger cars such as the Toyota Corolla, there was a 4.4 percent increase, or an estimated 597 deaths per year, in the risk of a fatality for every 100-pound reduction in the vehicle’s weight.

Machen, who was picked to be UF’s next president Oct. 8, will have a seat on the 18-member board, said he aims to replace Machen with a president who is focused on student-issues.

“Your guys stole him,” Buhrer joked. “Now we’ll just steal someone else.”

During the next two weeks, Utah Regents Jim Jarvi and Gavin Poynter will interview finalists for the search.

“Machen has served as Utah’s president since 1998, after a two-year stint as the University of Michigan provost. The next Utah president will be picked during an open session of the search committee after a series of secret interviews and closed meetings. In contrast to UF’s open presidential search — mandated by the Florida Sunshine Laws — only the names of the finalists for the U presidency will be released, though Utah law does not require it.

It found large passenger cars, such as the Lincoln Town Car, and minivans had the lowest fatality rates of all vehicle types. Only vehicles manufactured between 1991 and 1999 were considered.

The study found the fatality rate for SUVs and passenger cars of similar weight essentially was the same in non-rollover crashes. But death rates significantly rose for SUV occupants in rollover crashes.

“The study found the fatality rate for SUVs and passenger cars of similar weight essentially was the same in non-rollover crashes. But death rates significantly rose for SUV occupants in rollover crashes. This once again debunks the overall safety claim that mid-size SUVs are in fact safer than a passenger car,” said Sean Kane of the safety research firm Strategic Safety.

Eron Shosteck, a spokesman for the Washington-based Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, said rollovers represent only 2.5 percent of all crashes. He added that many SUV rollover deaths could be prevented if the occupants were wearing seat belts.

In general, NHTSA found vehicles that weighed less were less safe. Among small passenger cars such as the Toyota Corolla, there was a 4.4 percent increase, or an estimated 597 deaths per year, in the risk of a fatality for every 100-pound reduction in the vehicle’s weight.

There was a 3 percent increase in fatality risk, or 234 deaths per year, for every 100-pound reduction in mid-size SUVs and light trucks such as the Ford Explorer.

Among the heaviest vehicles, such as the Dodge Durango, there was little difference when weight was reduced by 100 pounds.

Occupants were killed more often in single-vehicle crashes because of increased rollovers or less protection, but those were offset by the smaller numbers of people killed when they were struck by the heavier vehicles.

Shosteck said the study reaffirms automakers’ position that reducing vehicle weight is unsafe. Automakers have used that argument to fight mandated increases in fuel efficiency. But Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy group, said better design, not more weight, makes vehicles safer.

Public Citizen said NHTSA’s analysis is flawed because it downgrades the safety benefits of some vehicles by lumping them in with those that are 100 pounds lighter.
COUNTY COMMISSION
Butler opposes annexation clause

By DWAYNE ROBINSON
Alligator Writer
drobinson@alligator.org

County Commissioners accepted an agreement Tuesday that calls for developer Clark Butler to fork over $2.7 million for the four-lane road to be called Southwest 24th Avenue.

However, Butler, owner of Butler Plaza and Butler Enterprises, partly opposed the contract. The money would be used to pay for the design and the construction of the road, which Butler previously volunteered to fund.

But Butler's concern was with a contract clause that would obligate him to pay the county if Butler Plaza or its future northern addition is annexed into Gainesville within 10 years.

"I'm having trouble figuring out why he's being penalized," said Jim Quincy, Butler's attorney.

A majority of commissioners accepted the agreement despite Butler's objections.

"The ball is now in Mr. Butler's court," said David Wagner, county attorney.

Butler will consider the amended agreement today, said Bob Reller, director of development for Butler Enterprises.

The county is using the clause to insulate itself economically from future annexations. And the Butler Plaza area is a possible target for annexations because of its urban nature and economic vitality.

If Gainesville annexes the properties, the city — not the county — would receive the economic benefits of Butler Plaza's addition, which would partly be the result of the county's funding of the four-lane road.

"It doesn't have anything to do with the public's interest, but it specifically has to do with Mr. Butler's interest," Commissioner Penelope Wheat said of the proposed road.

Commissioners Rodney Long, Lee Pinkoson and Cynthia Chestnut voted for both measures.

Supreme Court reviews pledge

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to decide whether it's unconstitutional for children in public schools to pledge their allegiance to "one nation under God."

The Pledge of Allegiance case pushes the court into an emotional argument over religion, patriotism and schools. Activists on both sides of the church-state divide immediately predicted one of the most significant, and wrenching, rulings in the court's modern history.

Generations of schoolchildren have begun each day by standing, hand on heart, to recite the oath that begins, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America."

Sometime next year, the high court will hear the case of a California atheist who objects to the pledge his 9-year-old daughter's teacher leads daily. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco agreed with Michael Newdow last year, and the ruling set off a nationwide uproar.

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alligator
First Shands lung transplant recipient recovering from second surgery

**TRANSPLANT**, from page 1

was 15 years old. She couldn't perform daily tasks, such as vacuuming the house, without feeling short of breath and her condition continued to get worse.

It took doctors several appointments until they figured out what was wrong with Lawson, and even then they couldn't tell her why the disease, which is not hereditary, had attacked her young body.

Shortly after the diagnosis, she was hooked up to an oxygen tank, which she took everywhere, including the shower and to bed.

"It was very hard because I had a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old," she said. "[The disease] kept me from doing things, but it got worse after I got on oxygen."

Lawson, who was 18 and living with her husband in Lakeland at the time, began seeking other programs that could offer lung transplants. She and her husband even considered moving to South Carolina, but her doctors in Lakeland kept referring her to Shands.

She contacted Shands doctors, who were interested in helping her but still were in the final stages of creating their lung transplant program.

Her husband was concerned that something could go wrong in the process, but she decided to request her name be put on the list to receive the transplant, she said.

"I was determined. I knew I was going to live," Lawson said.

Almost immediately after Lawson was put on the list for a transplant, doctors called her to come in. Since the surgery relatively was new in Florida, there wasn't a demand for donated lungs, she said. "All of a sudden I had to pack all things for three people," she said. "I had to bring my daughters with me to the hospital. I didn't think we'd ever get them."

She didn't know what to expect after the surgery. She suffered from acute rejection and from several infections associated with the surgery. The rejection, which is the body's normal immune response, is being treated with steroids.

She later contracted a disease that caused fungus to grow on organs surrounding her other lung. Doctors thought they'd have to remove that lung, but instead they treated her with a heavy dose of medications.

Recovery was slow for Lawson, changing the way she lived. Soon after the first transplant, Lawson and her husband divorced, leaving her to raise her children largely alone. She also left most of her family when she moved to Archer to be closer to the hospital.

She said she depended almost solely on her family and close friends to help her through the surgery and her illness.

"My sister was my rock," she said. "I couldn't have made it though without her."

**Back to start**

Lawson's health again deteriorated in 2001 and she needed a replacement for her other lung. But this time the wait would be much longer.

Since her first operation, state hospitals began offering the operations, causing an increased demand for lungs. She would have to wait a year to get a transplant, and she was becoming sicker every day.

She eventually was confined to an electric wheelchair and had to stay in the hospital on an air ventilator for three months before a six-hour surgery.

"With the second one I was a lot more scared because I knew what was going to happen," she said. "The after effects were a lot more scary. I had a really rough year. I knew of all these problems that could happen."

"Every night I just thank God for another day. I'm just happy to be alive." Tanya Lawson
transplant recipient

The second transplant especially was difficult for Lawson because she was unable to do exercises to keep her body strong for the operation, said her therapist Danny Martin, UF associate professor of physical therapy.

"She was too ill about four to five weeks before the transplant because she couldn't do the exercises," he said, adding that her case was further complicated by her dependence on a ventilator before surgery.

Lawson also suffered from chronic rejection, which means she had developed antibodies that would cause the body to reject any new organ immediately after the transplant.

"With the second transplant I was convinced I was going to die," she said. "It was such a struggle. I even tried to get the girls to have more of a relationship with their father because they'd have to go live with him."

**One brave lady**

Lawson since has tried to maintain a normal life after her second transplant. She wants to spend as much time as possible with her daughters because she knows the lungs she has now won't last forever.

Three days a week she wakes up at 7 a.m., drops her daughter off at school, drives to Gainesville for her physical therapy and runs errands. Every other week she has a bronchial test to make sure her body is not rejecting the organs.

She has to rest a lot, take her temperature twice a day and watch what she eats because she developed diabetes. She also stays in touch daily with Shands nurses who monitor her health.

"Every night I just thank God for another day," she said. "I'm just happy to be alive."

Money is one of her primary concerns. She doesn't have insurance and Medicare covers most of her expenses, including drugs that cost about $5,500 a month and the bills from hospital visits every two weeks.

Lawson said she doesn't work because if she is deemed fit to work, she could lose her Medicare, leaving her to struggle with bills that she can't afford, even with a job.

Lawson was unable to establish a career before the first surgery because she was so young, said Sherri Conner, a social worker with the Shands' lung transplant division.

Conner said she now is trying to help Lawson sort through many of her financial issues, such as trying to pay property taxes on her home.

Conner helps patients through their surgeries by making sure they have housing close to the hospital and helping them run their lives smoothly — financially and emotionally.

"I think she is one brave lady," Conner said. "She was really sick before the second transplant, but she really focused on her daughters. Someone else might have quit before this."

Lawson said she knows that it's just a matter of time before she will have another operation. She said she feels healthier than she has in a long time, but knows it won't last.

She only hopes to see her daughters graduate high school.

"To me, spending time with my girls is the most important," she said. "My girls have had to grow up in the past years a lot. The youngest one believes I'll be around forever, but we know in the back of our minds."
PUBLIC SAFETY

Firefighters increase training exercises

■ FIREFIGHTERS CREATE SETTING TO MIMIC REAL LIFE SITUATIONS.

By CHELSEA GREENWOOD
Alligator Contributing Writer

Take two dozen firefighters, add blaring sirens and throw in some blasting hoses.

What could be ingredients for an emergency response was just another day of training for Gainesville Fire Rescue members.

For the past two months, new and old members have participated in Rapid Intervention Training at an abandoned building downtown, where they faced scenarios challenging them to perform during the pressures of a real emergency.

"The Rapid Intervention Team is basically a rescue for the rescuers," said District Chief Michael Fulton. "Any time they're in an enclosed area and have to use self-contained breathing apparatus, we're required to have a team prepared."

If someone inside crashes through a burning floor or gets trapped by falling debris, the team goes in after them.

During the two-part training program, participants endure increasingly rigorous challenges such as the maze and the wall breach.

"The maze is tricky because you have to wear this blackout mask that simulates your limited visibility in a fire," Barker said.

Members negotiate cumbersome obstacles and squeeze through tight spaces on their hands and knees.

"Sometimes you have to take your air pack off just to fit through," he said. "You're doing all this in full gear."

The wall breach is an advanced maneuver where a firefighter must break a hole in a wall if he or she becomes trapped in an area. When fires jump quickly from room to room and floor to floor, the team must be prepared to move just as fast, Barker said.

"Because we've had a recent influx of new recruits, we have to funnel the whole department through all these exercises," Fulton said. "Plus, we have some new technology that everyone needs to get familiar with."

A recent federal grant allowed for the purchase of new Personal Accountability System devices for firefighters to wear on duty.

"Everything we do here is extremely realistic," Barker said. "It's about as real as you can get without adding heat and fire."

Candy

Garfield is posing at the recently opened Easton Museum of PEZ, a cotton candy-colored world of PEZ products that can captivate young and old alike. Some 1,500 PEZ dispensers, all nested in creative landscapes, fill the museum. The display of Garfield PEZ dispensers is seen at the Pennsylvania museum. Paces away from The Crayola Factory, the museum is another childhood fantasyland, with creative landscapes and lots and lots of PEZ.
Muhammad pleads innocent in sniper trial

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — A stone-faced John Allen Muhammad pleaded innocent Tuesday to capital murder charges stemming from last year's sniper spree that left 10 people dead and many in metropolitan Washington panic-stricken.

The trial began with jury selection, and Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. excused 53 of 123 potential jurors, mostly because work or personal reasons prevented them from sitting through a trial expected to last six weeks.

Jury selection was expected to last several days as the remaining 70 undergo further questioning.

Muhammad stood and stared silently at the prospective jurors each time he was introduced to one of them. Prosecutors and defense lawyers, in contrast, all took the opportunity to say, "Good morning."

The judge sternly warned the prospective jurors to ignore pretrial publicity about the case.

Muhammad faces two counts of capital murder. One charge is under an anti-terrorism law passed by the Legislature after the Sept. 11 attacks; it has never before been used. Prosecutors will have to show not only that Muhammad participated in a slaying, but that the intent was to influence the government or to intimidate the civilian population.

Moore again asks to question judges in ethics case

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Attorneys for suspended Chief Justice Roy Moore asked Alabama's Court of the Judiciary on Tuesday for permission to question members in the judicial ethics case against him — a prospect the judges balked at less than a month ago.

Moore is to stand trial Nov. 12 on six counts of violating the state's canons of judicial ethics for refusing to obey a federal judge's order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the judicial building's rotunda.

In a motion filed Tuesday, Moore's attorneys asked whether the court's eight judges could choose not to answer Moore's questions. During a hearing in the Moore case on Sept. 25, several judges scoffed at defense attorney Terry Butts' suggestion that they be subject to questioning and, possibly, disqualification.

Wilkerson said if the court decides not to answer the questions, the decision could go to the Alabama Supreme Court.
RENovation
Broward sports area to be renovated in November

NEW FACILITY WILL
BOAST IMPROVED COURTS
AND RINK.

By Brian Clay
Alligator Contributing Writer

An almost $1.5 million upgrade of the Broward Outdoor Recreation Complex is slated to begin Nov. 3.

The project, contracted by Burns Brothers Inc., will take approximately nine months. Originally, the project was to begin in April.

"When the master plan came in, it was over budget," said David Stopka, UF associate director of recreational sports facilities.

Stopka said cutbacks had to be made and that caused a delay.

"We're not taking anything away from this site," Stopka said. "We're looking to maintain all the program areas."

The current Broward complex, one of the oldest on campus, was last renovated in 1990. The complex has 10 tennis courts, two concrete volleyball courts, two non-regulation basketball courts, and an area that doubles as a hockey rink and skate park.

"We're looking at all sorts of different things to add," Stopka said.

Stopka said the two-face hockey/skating court will be demolished and rebuilt separately. The basketball and volleyball courts also will be demolished and rebuilt. The tennis courts will remain intact, but the lighting for the courts — as well as the entire area — will be redone.

Jody Arogeti, a UF marketing senior, said she thinks an upgrade could make the area more attractive to students.

"I've never seen the tennis courts totally crowded, but maybe by adding things it will draw people to the area," she said.

Stopka said the new hockey facility could also double as a soccer court. The skate park will be situated north of its current location, and will have a variety of ramps and rails.

Three sand volleyball courts will take the place of the two current concrete courts. Also to be added: a building with restrooms and a storage area and water fountains.

Unlike the current facility, where identification is rarely checked, students must show their Gator Card in order to enter.

Other measures will be added as well to ensure students' safety.

"Staff with CPR and first-aid training will be on-site at all times," said Stopka.

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To: Classifieds@alligator.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2003 10:00 AM
Subject: Classifieds Ad

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Here are some examples of errors I found:

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2. Incorrect phone number:
   - "372-7555" should be "372-9365"
3. Incorrect price:
   - "$325/mo." should be "$150/mo.
4. Incorrect address:
   - "378-9220" should be "372-9220"
5. Incorrect date:
   - "12-10-74" should be "12-10-73"

I understand that these errors might not be significant, but as a reader, I find it important to have accurate information. I hope that you will take the necessary steps to correct these errors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

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VOLLEYBALL
Cruz plays like luxury car

By ANDREW ABRAMSON
Alligator Writer
a Abramson@alligator.org

Her name alone is one of mystique. It’s spelled Aury but pronounced Audi, like the car.

“Audi is all about absolutes,” the Audi Motors Web site says. “Absolute clarity. Absolute vision. Absolute passion. Audi has never been about following trends.”

Comparing the star player of the UF volleyball team to a car may appear absurd, but the comparison lurks close.

“The difference between Aury and most players is her vision,” Coach Mary Wise said. “Aury sees the court and the game three dimensionally. Most of us just see it one dimensionally in terms of following the ball. She’s like a point guard that can see the entire court.”

The hard swinger from Puerto Rico is playing out her final season at UF, and her career has been everything Wise hoped it would be when the senior signed nearly four years ago.

Not only has the Gators won every Southeastern Conference match since Cruz’s arrival, but she has helped turn the team from the top program in the South to one of the top in the nation.

But Cruz was focused on her volleyball career as a college volleyball player.

“My name alone is one of the top players in the world,” Cruz said. “For many volleyball players, it’s hard to play Division I in Italy where all the money’s at and where the best overseas volleyball is played right now.”

For all the success she has achieved at UF, it is something Cruz always expected and anticipated, she said.

Her face has grazed magazine covers, but the attention never seems to go to her head.

“It was always a goal of mine,” said Cruz of being a well-known volleyball star. “But if I was going to be known, more than anything I wanted to be known as not just a key player but a team player.”

It is that selflessness that has made Cruz more than just a player capable of putting up 20-30 kills a match. She’s also UF’s most complete player.

“In overall skills I haven’t seen anyone better,” said teammate Jen Mandes, who has known Cruz since competing against her in the Puerto Rico amateur leagues.

“What makes her so good is that she’s great in every aspect of the game — passing, playing defense, blocking, killing the ball, serving — that’s what makes such a difference. Most players are good at one or two things on the court, but she’s good at everything.”

Cruz has made a point to focus on each perspective of the game.

“Every year is different,” Cruz said. “Last year I wanted to come onto the court and pass. Passing is a really important part of the game because if there’s no pass there’s no kill. This year I have the mentality of getting my digs and playing a little more defense. It all depends on how I feel that year.”

While Cruz would be satisfied as a role player, Cruz will be looked upon to carry the load during another stretch run for a national championship.

“It’s really important,” Cruz said. “All eyes are on us.”

And once she’s gone, Wise said there is no doubt Cruz will have left a lasting legacy.

“With all her experience and all her talent she never took a day off,” Wise said. “She didn’t take a drill off, or a game off. She gave us great effort no matter who the opponent was, or what day in practice it was.”

After her senior season, UF outside hitter and two-time All-American Aury Cruz could become one of the Gators’ most accomplished players.

UF FOOTBALL REPORT

Carthon overcomes injuries

Ran Carthon can’t catch a break. The senior running back has dodged the serious injuries recently, but the small ailments have been a nuisance all season for UF’s starter.

Pressconference expectations were high for Carthon, who was projected to take the majority of the carries for UF’s offense. Since two-a-days, however, Carthon has nursed a groin injury and a pulled hamstring.

Although he’s started every game this season, he only has amassed 72 of UF’s 188 carries from running back (redshirt freshman DeShawn Wynn and Jeff Sims average 6.9 yards per carry through seven games).”

“You just have to deal with it. I’m just getting in hours and hours of treatment a week. I’m trying to work my way back into it slowly and get the visual reps that I need this season,” Carthon said.

Carthon admits the hamstring injury has hindered him, and it came at the worst of times.

Against Louisiana State on Saturday, Carthon had 35 yards rushing on seven carries and three receptions for 37 yards and a touchdown — all in the first quarter.

Once Carthon sat out the second quarter and tried to jog off the pain at halftime, nothing felt right.

“For now, UF coach Ron Zook said Carthon should be able to go” Saturday against Arkansas.

While Carthon’s goal is to start every game this season, he said, he’s not worried about his team if he’s sidelined again.

“Fortunately for me, I have guys behind me that won’t miss a beat,” said Carthon, referring to sophomore Ciatrick Fason and redshirt freshmen DeShawn Wynn and Jeff Sims Walker.

If Carthon’s time is limited Saturday, the rest of the running back rotation could get interesting. Fason comes off a 92-yard rushing game against LSU, not to mention a 35-yard touchdown reception.

Fason said he’s worked with the first-team offense this week, as the No. 2 running back on the depth chart. Wynn, who fumbled on the 1-yard line against LSU, suffered a minor shoulder injury Saturday but should be able to play this week, Zook said.

Carthon has been Carthon’s most proficient backup this season, but Fason showed promise Saturday after being in Zook’s doghouse because of playing time complaints.

As usual, he released his catch soon after.

On one occasion, though, Cruz grew too attached to a piglet.

So he and Crowder kept it in their dorm room.

“We thought it’d be like having a puppy,” said Crum, a redshirt freshman who first turned to wild-animal wrestling.

After a few long days, the roommates quickly found out just how often some "puppies" must use the "restroom."

As a result, Crowder dropped the pig off at its new home — Ingle Martin’s pad.

Along with Todd McCullough and Lance Butler, the three feed their new pet cheerios until the stink suffocated their house as well.

Crum ended up making the two-hour drive back to his hometown to release the hog into the wild.

Since then, the hog-hunting crew simply sticks to tackling and releasing.

And this weekend, as UF plays the Arkansas Razorbacks the Gators hope those same tackling skills translate to the playing field.

There, the other hogs will be waiting, with loud snorts and snarls.

But compared to the wild boars, Saturday’s opponents shouldn’t be a problem.

“After all,” Crowder said “running backs don’t bite.”
FOOTBALL

UF looks to shut down hyped OT

THE GATORS' DEFENSIVE LINE HAS DIFFICULT TASK AGAINST ARKANSAS' SHAWN ANDREWS.

By JEFF DARLINGTON
Alligator Staff Writer
jd darlington@alligator.org

UF defensive tackle Ray McDonald isn't afraid of Shawn "Hurricane" Andrews. He isn't afraid of his hype. Or his size. Or his countless accolades.

And he certainly isn't afraid of his Web site. "Sounds like he's a showboat to me," McDonald said of Arkansas' 6-foot-5, 370-pound offensive tackle. "He's impressive, but I don't think he's too big for us. We just have to hit him in the mouth. We're going to show him we're still the Gators."

Yes, Andrews does star in his own flashy home page at ShawnAndrews.net. But lately, the anchor of Arkansas' potent ground attack actually has lived up to the world-wide (web) hype.

Against Alabama on Sept. 27, the junior recorded 21 knock downs and graded out at 99 percent. Now UF, who plays at Arkansas on Saturday, must find a way to break him down. It's a task this angry defensive lineman is ready to accept. "We're getting tired of people talking bad about the defensive line," McDonald said. "I don't know why everybody says we're the weak link. I don't know where we're the weak link. I don't know where they get that from. I think we're one of the best defensive lines in the country."

Until Saturday, though, the unit hadn't done much to help. As the ninth-ranked rushing defense in the conference, UF was giving up an average of 152.2 yards per game. Then, against a highly regarded Tigers offense, the defensive line played its best game of the year, holding the rush to 56 yards.

"Now, we need to be consistent," defensive line coach Red Anderson said. "There's times we've done well and times we haven't. We can be better."

Saturday, some would argue they must be better. After all, Andrews isn't the Razorbacks' only weapon this unit must deal with. Tailback Cedric Cobbs leads the conference in rushing yards with 128 per game, while quarterback Matt Jones is known for his scrambling ability. All factors considered, defensive tackle Kenny Parker said the game plan is uncomplicated. "Stop the run," he said. "Shut it down. Plain and simple. They're going to try to run it down our throats. They're going to run it down Shawn's side a lot. But we've got to shut him down."

At this point in the season, UF's linebackers and defensive ends have become two of the Gators' hottest positions. But it's unproven whether the interior line will continue to play as they did Saturday. "You've got to realize, we have a group of guys that had not played," he said. "None of those guys were on defense inside of Andrews, this will be the chance to prove they deserve otherwise."

The learning curve has ended, and these defensive linemen are completely aware of that. So while they may not get the notoriety of Andrews, this will be the chance to prove they deserve otherwise.

"It must be nice to have your own Web site," Parker said. "Maybe when we shut him out, we'll get our name out there, too."

Arkansas game crucial for Gators

SEC, from page 24

If the Gators are looking for any inspiration to overcome a 2-2 start to the SEC season, they have to look no further than this week's opponent. As UF coach Ron Zook is quick to point out, Arkansas represented the West in the SEC Championship game last year after starting the league 1-3.

The Razorbacks went to Atlanta at 5-3 in the SEC after defeating two other 5-3 teams — Auburn and LSU. "The door was never shut in our eyes," Zook said. "I said that before. Seven of the last eight years there's teams that lost at least two games going to Atlanta."

The Gators will need a win in Fayetteville, Ark., on Saturday just to keep up. Georgia plays 1-6 Vanderbilt this week, and after an open date, Tennessee will visit Alabama on Oct. 25.

After Saturday, the next conference game for UF and Georgia will be their matchup in Jacksonville on Nov. 1. "We're going to try to keep playing it on," quarterback Chris Leak said. "We're going to try to keep it going because [LSU] was a big win for us."

Riding the LSU victory, the Gators don't expect they will be waiting long by the telephone anymore. "I think everything's pretty good now," Crowder said. "Everything's getting back together."

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SOCCER
Top defender doubles as goalie

By OSCAR UBILLUS
Alligator Writer
oubillus@alligator.org

Jen Gardner has a new nickname.
The defender also has a new role on the No. 10 UF soccer team.

During the second match of the season against Southern California, UF goalie Colleen Donovan was lost for the season with a knee injury and Gardner was asked to step in.

"A few weeks ago [Coach Becky Burleigh] came up to me and said I've got a new name for you," Gardner said. "She said my name was 'Slash.'"

Freshman Brittni Goodwin has taken control of the Gators net since the USC game, but the new Slash has become a prime utility player for the Gators, filling the need of backup goalie while remaining a top defender.

The sophomore started her first match of the season Sunday as a defender.

For the Gators, Gardner's extra responsibility benefits both duties she faces nowadays.

"The practice time she gets helps for either position she's playing," Burleigh said.

After Donovan's injury, Gardner's experience between the posts has come in handy for the Gators.

"In some ways we're getting better, but in some ways we just need to do things that we talk about. We need to start games off with more intensity not just talk about it." 

Becky Burleigh
UF soccer coach

"Jen has always been a goalkeeper at some level, even as a youth player," Burleigh said.

"Last spring she played in goal for us so [goalkeeper coach Steve Springthorpe] wanted her to continue that training for security." 

Although Goodwin has solidified herself as the Gators' No. 1 goalie, the push from the bench helps the top-10 team as they attempt to recapture the Southeastern Conference title.

"If my role is to be a keeper, with Colleen being out, than I'm going to do my best to challenge Brittni to be a better keeper," Gardner said.

SEC MIDPOINT: More than halfway through the conference season, the Gators sit in second place in the Eastern Division.

Burleigh's assessment so far — some strengths, some blemishes.

"In some ways we're getting better, but in some ways we just need to do things that we talk about," she said. "We need to start games off with more intensity, not just talk about it."

Overall, the Gators' coach said the team has played fairly better than at the beginning of the season, but allows herself and her players room for improvement.

"We can still be better than we are or were," Burleigh said. "Come on, I'm a coach, I'm never satisfied."

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Triton Miller / Alligator Staff
Coach Becky Burleigh directs the UF soccer team during a crucial conference stretch.
ALLIGATOR
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STILL IN CONTENTION

With UF's win against Louisiana State on Saturday, the Gators are in the thick of the Southeastern Conference race.

A week after being left out in the cold, UF is bringing flowers and chocolates to the Southeastern Conference's door, aiming for a second chance.

That's the way UF linebacker Channing Crowder sees the up-and-down race to court the SEC East.

"Right now it's like dating a girl," Crowder said. "We had one good date, but the next date wasn't as good, so she might not call you back. Altogether, the SEC is like getting married."

The Gators are trying not to be left at the altar.

A week ago, UF's talk of staying in the SEC race and making it to the championship game with two losses was met with chuckles and pessimism.

Now, the Gators find themselves in the thick of the SEC. UF (4-3, 2-2 SEC) is a game behind Georgia (5-1, 3-1 SEC) and tied with Tennessee, even though UF hasn't won consecutive games this year.

But suddenly, a berth in the league championship game doesn't look as laughable for a team that seemed destined to go stag for the postseason this time last week.

The Gators dropped two consecutive home games, one against unranked Mississippi, and had to pull out a fourth-quarterback comeback against 2-4 Kentucky earlier in the season.

A win against now-No. 10 Louisiana State in Baton Rouge provided the turnaround.

"You could just feel the morale improve," Crowder said. "On Monday at practice people were flying around. We should've had pads on because we were hitting like we had pads on."

As fans and media started to look at UF's three-game stretch against LSU, Arkansas and Georgia as UF's downfall, cornerback Johnny Lamar said the Gators refused to listen to the gloom and criticism.

"As a team we never counted ourselves out," Lamar said. "We always tried to stay focused, knowing that we weren't out of it."

SEE SEC, PAGE 22

Hog hunting provides UF players with practice

They're fat. They're ugly. And they smell worse than last weekend's 5 a.m. walk down Bourbon Street.

But so what? Everyone needs a hug once in awhile, right? Even a couple of 150-pound hogs deserve some affection.

No, seriously. We're talking about real hogs here. Pigs. Onkers. Swine.

And as the Gators football team prepares for the Razorbacks on the field Saturday, you're not going to believe how some have prepared off the field.

About 10 athletes have taken to the woods, searching for the perfect pig.

But once they find it, guns aren't involved.

Instead, they chase the stinker down.

And they tackle it and tie it up, just for fun.

"Yup," said Channing Crowder, one of the leaders of the hog-hecklers. "It's a crazy man's sport."

Crazy?

No. Crazy is going streaking through the quad and into the gymnasm.

This is insane.

When linebacker Brian Crum first told me about his lifelong hobby from his days growing up in Camden County, Ga., I assumed he tackled little pigs — the cute pink ones with curly tails.

But not even close. Get this. Some of the players actually compete in Tough Man competitions.

SEE TALES, PAGE 21

UP NEXT

The Alligator will profile the journey of UF's junior college football players in Thursday's edition.

I DID NOT KNOW THAT

The No. 3 UF volleyball team has not lost a set since its 3-1 victory against Kansas State on Aug. 23.

WHO'S HOT

UF sophomore Boglarka Berecz, who won the singles and doubles titles at the Gator Women's Tennis Fall Classic last weekend.

WHO'S NOT

UF midfielder Crystal Frimpomg, who has scored one goal since the Sept. 12 game against East Carolina.