LGBT Gators get new UF voice

**By MEGAN SEERY**
Alligator Writer

About 300 UF students, faculty, administrators and community members attended UF's annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Student Assembly on Monday evening in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom.

The event, sponsored by the Dean of Students Office and several student organizations, received top billing from UF administrators including UF President Bernie Machen and newly hired LGBT Affairs Director Tamara Cohen.

"The University of Florida has just taken a historic step," Cohen said. "We are welcoming in a new era."

She added that a top priority of hers is to push for LGBT faculty and staff to have the same benefits as straight faculty and staff.

The event was held at the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom. There only is one other IRHA president who has resigned in its 26-year history, IRHA administration Monday.

"I always say what we do here is so much fun," Olson told IRHA members at the Monday meeting. "I have also said that if you are not having fun, it is time to move on."

She added, "I came to the decision that my heart is not where it should be." Personal reasons were the cause of the resignation, she said.

"I'm trying to get in law school, and I need to focus on my studies," Olson said later in a telephone interview. The IRHA president position now is open to students who have held membership in IRHA for at least one year. The application process will be open for the next two weeks.

IRHA members will choose the new president at a special meeting Sept. 13. IRHA meets Mondays at 5:15 p.m. in Reitz Union Room 282.

The IRHA presidency has been a springboard toward higher Student Government offices. Student Body Vice President Jennifer Puckett was the IRHA president before she won her SG election with the Access Party this Spring.

There only is one other IRHA president who has resigned in its 26-year history, IRHA administration Monday.

"I'm with Tamara," he said. "The University of Florida is your place, and together it's going to be a place for all of us to grow."

Although Cohen's position was created after a UF Climate Committee study indicated there was a need for a new voice for UF's LGBT faculty, students and staff.

"I was thrilled by the response," she said, adding that a top priority of hers is to keep the public aware of students' and staff's needs and concerns.

The student groups which received top billing were UF's LGBTQ Student Assembly and the Student Government's Climate Committee.

Other speakers included interim Vice President of Student Affairs Mike Rollo, Associate Dean of Students Mary Kay Schneider, Student Body President Jamal Howell and Counseling Center therapist Jennifer Sager.

Machen opened his remarks by acknowledging his wife, Chris Machen, and the access groups which received top billing at the event.

By JARED LEONE
Alligator Writer
jeleon@alligator.org

Inter-Residence Hall Association President Kellie Olson resigned her post as the head liaison between on-campus residents and UF's housing administration Monday.

"I always say what we do here is so much fun," Olson told IRHA members at the Monday meeting. "I have also said that if you are not having fun, it is time to move on."

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**Primary races today**

**By JAMES VANLANDINGHAM**
Alligator Writer

As polling places open their doors from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today, Alachua County's 127,133 registered voters will help decide races in a primary election of local, state and national significance.

Three of the county's 71 polling places are on UF's campus: at the Reitz Union, the Ham Museum and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

In the national arena, today's election will determine the Democratic and Republican parties' nominees for the U.S. House and Senate.

Locally, voters decide races for Alachua County judge, County Commission, supervisor of elections and school board.

Voters also will choose judges to sit on the 8th Judicial Circuit benches and the circuit's public defender.

Alachua County voters also will weigh in on whether to levy a one-fourth-cent sales tax.
Leah Zissimopulos, Bethany O'Neill, i

Market weighed on consumers' percent gain. The percent rise in the previous month.

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ment from June, when consumers behavior marked an improve-

helped by buyers' incentives. For big-ticket goods, such as cars, helped by buyers' incentives.

was led by a rebound in demand month. Their, appetitWt

The latest snapshot of buyer

spend

percent increase

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percent rise

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Bush supporters, protesters descend on New York

By JESSICA ENG
Alligator Contributing Writer

Monday marked the beginning of the Republican National Convention in New York City, where approximately 4,853 GOP delegates convened.

Among the attendees were five UF Republican students who made the 1,000-mile trip to the Big Apple. And so did some UF protesters.

"New York is very animated," said Jane Muir, of UF's chapter of College Republicans. "People are very excited about the convention. The city is very welcoming to everyone."

Muir said she attended the convention to support Bush and to be involved in politics.

It is important to show support because the younger generations are characterized by a degree of political apathy, and we need to encourage them to show an interest," Muir said. "It is imperative to learn why we are voting for who we are."

Brittandie Sanders, vice chairwoman of College Republicans, arrived in New York on Monday.

"I support President Bush, which is why I am here," Sanders said. "I want to bring the same drive back to Republican students at UF." Sanders attended the convention as a volunteer.

Sheri Valera, a UF senior majoring in Spanish and political science, attended the convention as the youngest Florida delegate.

Drivers squeeze last drops out of state gas-tax break

Tax holiday saves $60 million

By JAMES VANLANDINGHAM
Alligator Writer

Florida's 8-cents-per-gallon gasoline tax break ends today.

The tax holiday, which began Aug. 1 and ran through the month, has saved Florida consumers approximately $60 million.

Ali Chaibou, a gas station employee and second-year SPCC student, said that he's noticed an increase in customers at the Chevron station on West University Avenue and Northwest 11th Street.

"Gas is less expensive with the tax cut this month, and people want to fill up their tanks before it ends," he said.

UF doctoral candidate Byoung Hyeok Lim, who filled up his tank at the Kangaroo station at West University Avenue and Southwest 13th Street, said he liked the tax break.

"Taxes like gas tax affect everyone equally, so I think if there are tax cuts it's fairest to do it this way," he said.

UF sophomore Jenna Conway saved 80 cents when she filled up at the Kangaroo station. She said the $60 million in lost revenue should have been spent on state projects.

"I don't think it's worth it," she said. "I think that road construction and medical care is more important than me saving 8 cents per gallon on gas."

The Florida Senate passed the tax holiday in May at the urging of outgoing House Speaker Johnnie Byrd.

Byrd scheduled the tax holiday for the same month as today's primary election. UF

"There are only two kinds of tax cuts: good and better."

Johnnie Byrd Florida House Speaker

He aspires to become Florida's junior U.S. senator. Byrd since has advertised the tax holiday in his campaign's television commercials.

"There are only two kinds of tax cuts: good and better," Byrd stated in a release after the law's passage.

Democrats have criticized the tax, saying it is fiscally unsound and could lead to a budget crisis in Florida.

"Let's not get ourselves into more debt than we're in already," said Ketsia Jumneus, president of UF College Democrats.

"Sure, it's great to save a little money on gas now, but we'll be paying for these tax cuts later," she said.

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a left-leaning think tank that studies the effects of government policies on low- and moderate-income families, predicts that Florida will suffer a "substantial structural shortfall" in state revenue in fiscal year 2006.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Officials to prepare Senate hopefuls for qualifying

By CATHERINE McNAMARA
Alligator Contributing Writer

UF students interested in joining the Student Senate, which controls more than $11 million of student monies, can get information today at a meeting at 6 p.m. in Reitz Union Room 349.

Student Government is holding elections for Student Senate on Sept. 28 and 29. There will be 43 Senate seats available to any UF student with at least a 2.0 GPA.

Student Senate President Joe Goldberg said he hopes students will get involved with SG.

"As a freshman, I got involved and have been in the Senate for three years," he said. "It is a great place to meet people and make a tangible difference."

SG decides how student money will be spent. UF students paid Activity & Service Fees of $8.26 per credit hour this Fall, which means an undergraduate UF student enrolled in 15 credit hours paid about $123 toward the fee that funds SG.

Student Body presidential adviser Lowell Wong said SG is a great way for students to get involved at UF.

"SG has an effect on our everyday lives, from RTS (Regional Transit System) to Bright Futures – every facet of student life," Wong said. "It is an incredible learning experience."

Senate seats for the Fall elections are divided among residence halls or ZIP codes, and students only may run for seats that correspond to their districts or residence halls.

Therefore, a student living at Lakeside Residential Complex could run for that Senate seat but not for the seat assigned to ZIP code 32608, which encompasses the Campus Lodge, Lexington Crossing and Gainesville Place developments.

"As a freshman, I got involved and have been in the Senate for three years. It is a great place to meet people and make a tangible difference."

Joe Goldberg
Student Senate President

For that area – also known as District D – there will be 13 open Senate seats this Fall.

At least five positions are open in the SG Honor Court, two of which are designated for law students.

Lobbying Coordinator Robert Mack will be handing out applications for 10 Lobby director positions in campus, city, county, state and federal politics.

Students can find out more about the deadlines for specific jobs at the open house.

Students also will be able to explore the option of running in the Fall elections, Caesar said.

For more information, visit www.sg.ufl.edu.

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Student leaders seek staff for Cabinet, SG agencies

SG HAS MORE THAN 50 POSITIONS OPEN.

By EMILY YEHLE
Alligator Writer eyehle@alligator.org

The Student Senate second-in-command said it took her nearly two years to break through the bureaucracy of Student Government, and now she's hoping to spare freshmen and other students the same fate.

Senator Pro Tempore Crystal Caesar, a senior, said she organized an open house, called "Our Office is Your Office," to make SG accessible to students.

"If people don't know about Student Government, then how do they know how to improve it?" she asked.

The open house will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday in the SG offices on the third floor of the Reitz Union.

Because there are more than 50 positions open in SG, freshmen need to know where and how to get involved, she said.

Every agency – except for UF's speaker's bureau, Accent – has positions open. One of those organizations is SG Productions, the entertainment branch that previously has netted Jay-Z and John Mayer.

SG President Jamal Sowell said he does not want students to be intimidated by the interviews.

"Have an open mind and be yourself. The interviews are very relaxed," he said.

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Little airports deal with big problems, too.

Gainesville Regional Airport has the same responsibility as any other airport — getting passengers in and out safely, officials said.

"There's a saying in the industry: 'Once you've seen an airport, you've only seen one airport.' Every airport has its own unique set of challenges and priorities." Gainesville Regional Airport certainly is a small place: one runway, two X-ray baggage screening machines and two baggage claim conveyor belts. "We have the provisions to install a third bag belt when we need it," Gainesville Regional's Director of Operations Tate Fisher said. "In all my time here, we just haven't needed one."

The Delta Connection and US Airways ticket agents handle fewer than 400 passengers a day, combined, for the airport's 14 daily flights.

Standing in a terminal whose 1970s design shows its age in some places, Stagl said he was proud the airport's X-ray machines were less than six months old. The new machines have the ability to superimpose bombs and other forbidden items over carry-on luggage run through the machine.

Stagl said Gainesville Police station at least one officer at the airport at all times, who, in addition to patrol duties, is responsible for arresting passengers discovered to be on the TSA's "no-fly" list.

TSA tests its employees on a regular basis. Nonlocal police officers and TSA managers who fly out of the airport are asked to aim a gun through the checkpoint or send a specially designed suitcase through the machine.

"We're always testing people," Stagl said. "If we let even a test device go through, that's a bad career move on that [TSA screener] part."

Stagl said heavy background checks are performed on work- ers, and special guards are placed around construction areas to check badges on a regular basis.

The airport's runway and passenger gates also are in the process of a major renovation.

"The cost [of security] is actually factored into the construction, because we know it must be maintained at all times," he said.

The runway should be open by Thursday, in time to handle the Middle Tennessee State football team's incoming plane Friday.

Also, new Continental Airlines and Northwest Airlines service beginning in September will add several flights to the airport's daily roster.

Stagl said he doesn't expect the airport's new traffic to impact security because the new flights would come in and leave during the downtime between flights already in service.

In just a case, Stagl said he is adding five more baggage handlers. The renovations won't allow airport security to lessen its watch, in any event.

In the end, according to Fisher, small airports basically feature fewer people doing the same job as in any other place.

"It makes getting to know people easier. Everybody wears the same hat down here. The only difference is the larger airports have more money to specialize," he said.
Editorial

Declaration
Cast a ballot — earn politicians' attention

Tiny margins of victory could decide the outcomes of today's primary races, and it is imperative that UF students head to the polls and cast ballots in what are certain to be tight contests.

All across the Sunshine State, Floridians will cast the first ballots to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Bob Graham this morning, deciding who will advance to the next level in a race that could decide control of the U.S. Senate. In Alachua County, civic-minded citizens will be selecting a Democrat to face Republican Ernesto Herrerra in the newly important supervisor of elections race. Two County Commission seats are also being contested, and the outcome could reshape the way this traditionally green county treats future development and battles its abysmally high poverty rate.

State analyst Doug Hornbeck is the most qualified primary candidate to replace retiring Supervisor of Elections Beverly Hill. Hornbeck — the only candidate who sat down with the Alligator's editorial board — has the zeal to register and educate as many new voters as possible. As supervisor, his tech-heavy background could be a first line of defense in preventing the kind of ncy degli that plagued Florida during the 2000 election.

Infrastructure planning and land-use policies also are decided by Alachua County commissioners, but because student voters generally ignore local issues, it makes it easy for local politicians to turn their back on students and their needs.

Mike Byerly, the incumbent District 1 commissioner, has proven his commitment to protecting Alachua County's environment, even if it has meant cutting growth. His innovative treatment ideas for minor criminals and drug addicts reflect the kind of solutions that could help the commission aid troubled UF students.

Due to Florida's closed primary system, only registered Democrats will have the opportunity to weigh in on the supervisor and County Commission races, but registered Republicans still need to head to the polls to pare down the crowded field of GOP Senate candidates.

Democrat Betty Castor and Republican Bill McCollum are the best choices to fill Graham's seat — Castor for her experience in the Florida Senate and as USF's president, and UF graduate McCollum for his service in the U.S. House and commitment to improving Florida schools.

While party allegiances and plain old curiosity likely will draw students to the polls for the much-publicized Senate race, registered voters should be equally thoughtful in casting their ballots for the local races. Too often, voters do not realize that local races have the most direct and lasting impact upon their everyday lives. For instance, the County Commission race could help decide whether another Wal-Mart Supercenter sets up shop in Alachua County — or if environmental concerns still reign.

These primary elections kick off a crowded electoral season in which UF voters will return to the polls at least two more times — once for this month's Student Senate elections and again for the Nov. 2 general election. That means a lot of ballots will be bubbled, but voters must remain interested in the process and continue to exercise their civil rights.

 Casting a ballot takes only a few moments, but it is one of the most important things an American citizen ever can do. This country's democracy is too important to cast aside.

Guest column

Anti-Bush bluster unfair, unfounded

I would like to speak on the current controversy surrounding the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth advertisement. Sen. Kerry's campaign recently has cried out for President Bush to condemn the ad by these veterans. The Democratic candidate wants to end this ad questioning his military service in Vietnam.

His campaign and fellow ultra-liberals claim it is unfair for conservatives and the Swift Boat Vets to challenge Kerry's version of events in Vietnam. Yet Kerry hasn't condemned the rhetoric challenging Bush's National Guard service.

I think it is pitiful and childish of Kerry to demand that the president denounce the Swift Boat ad because he is hurting in the polls.

Why hasn't the senator ever repudiated the rhetoric of MoveOn.org that asserts that Bush has similarities to Hitler? Kerry never has condemned others in his corner for spreading propaganda about Bush, but now he wants the president to step out and do him a favor.

People such as Michael Moore and Howard Dean are able to spread defamatory remarks about my commander in chief without complaint. The Kerry campaign is not about his strengths or abilities but about lies for lies sake.

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Letters to the Editor

Sowell was right to offer endorsement

Editor: It never ceases to amaze me — and yet also frighten me — when reactions such as those presented by Student Sens. Pelton and Schuster arise from someone's show of free opinion. Those who believe Student Body President Jamal Sowell's public endorsement for a U.S. Senate candidate was wrong and inappropriate have a blatant misunderstanding of the concepts of free election and free speech. Not only is it our constitutional right to publicly support a candidate, but it is our civil responsibility as voters in a democratic society.

The fact that Sowell is the representative of the student body does not alleviate this responsibility, and it certainly does not block it. Did President Clinton's position as the representative of the entire country prevent him from publicly endorsing Sen. Carol Moseley Braun in the 1996 Illinois election or U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley in his election? Was Clinton asked to retract his endorsement? Or, in a more direct example, did President Bush's public support and endorsement for Gov. Jeb Bush result in a rally to retract his endorsement? Of course not, which is why the notion of Sowell being asked to retract his endorsement is absurd. To those who disagree with Sowell, I have this to say: Take a stand, use your voice, and fulfill your own civil responsibility by endorsing a candidate. It is fundamental to a well-working free election for every voice to be heard. Those who choose to attack and harass people such as Sowell are either cowards in their own opinion or simply undemocratic. George Bernard Shaw said, "Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it." Instead of being criticized, Sowell should be praised — not for his opinion, but for the simple fact that he stated an opinion.

Matthew Salois
6AG

President's endorsement not official

Editor: Recent allegations in the Alligator, which charged that Student Body President Jamal Sowell's endorsement of U.S. Senate candidate Mel Martinez was inappropriate and unethical, are extremely precarious and completely without basis. First and foremost, I am writing this letter unequivocally to deny that this was an official endorsement by the Student Body president. As the chief policy adviser to President Sowell, I can attest that such an action would have been discussed with me. It never was. However, this was an unplanned endorsement by Sowell — UF student, resident of Orange County, where he has worked personally with Martinez on numerous occasions. Sowell also was exercising his right to participate in the political process through the First Amendment.

However, I assert that there is a long-standing precedent of public officials endorsing candidates. Gov. Jeb Bush and Gainesville Mayor Peggen Hanrahan undoubtedly reserve the right to endorse whomever they believe to be the best president for the United States. Likewise, this administration reserves the right officially to support any candidates — we who believe to be in the best unifying interests of the student body — although we have no intentions of doing so. We will encourage student engagement in the elections this year through voter registration and education.

As for our response to those who have attempted to implicate Sowell in some sort of nefarious political scandal, I would ask all of your readers to consider each quoted source of these allegations. They either disapproved because they were in support of the opposing candidates or have consistently been at political odds with this administration because it hindered their personal gains through Student Government by sticking to the platform the on which the administration ran — access to SG for all students.

Lowell T. Wong
Chief policy adviser to the Student Body president

All students have right to offer opinion

Editor: It was entirely appropriate for Student Body President Jamal Sowell to endorse Mel Martinez for the U.S. Senate. Any knee-jerk suggestion to the contrary is absolutely ludicrous. He violated neither rules nor laws in doing so. It is in keeping with the finest of American traditions for those who have been entrusted with positions of power and influence to endorse candidates for other offices. For instance, the leaders of liberal student groups should feel free to endorse whomever they choose. I'd actually consider it a public service if they would make their choices clear to the student body.

Matthew Salois
6AG

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Here's a no-brainer: Simply show your valid student I.D. and save 15% on all regular price stuff. (That's a lot of stuff.) But, you'd better hurry. Come September 26th, this offer's history. Sorry, cannot be used with any other discount or offer.


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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Senate to take first look at A&S fee predictions

Students may pay up to 34 cents more

By EMILY YEHELE
Alligator Writer
estyhele@alligator.org

Students may be forced to pay 14 to 34 cents more per credit hour starting in Fall 2005 to fund a continually expanding Student Government budget.

The Activity & Service Fee students pay via tuition has increased 10 cents, 48 cents and 10 cents from 2000 to 2004.

The potential 34-cent fee hike next year could mean that students could pay about 13 percent more than students in 2001 paid in Activity & Service Fees.

SG Budget Committee Chairman Bryson Ridgeway will present the $11 million budget at the Student Senate meeting tonight at 7:30 in Reitz Union in Room 292. The budget, which increased 5.5 percent since last year, maps out funding for SG, the Reitz Union and the Division of Recreational Sports, which runs Southwest Recreational Center.

And SG organizations may receive more money if the proposed budget passes through the Senate in the next few weeks.

"With the added funds, a lot of organizations will be a lot happier," Ridgeway said, referring to the proposed 18 percent increase in money disbursed to student organizations.

The lack of budgeted money to fund all organizations last year convinced the Budget Committee to $50,000 should be added to the organizational budget on top of the normal 5 percent increase, Ridgeway said.

Last year, the budget was $45,000 short of what organizations required due to a boom in new organizations in the last few years.

An additional $16,000 also was added to the organizational budget when some recreational sports were transferred out of the Division of Recreational Sports to SG.

The total SG organizational budget proposed is about $600,000.

Specific allocations for SG organizations, however, won't be decided until Spring.

Although senators will not vote on the budget tonight, they will approve a budget in the next few weeks influencing the A&S Fee for the 2005-06 academic year.

A committee of students and faculty probably will decide the actual fee in early October. The SG budget would affect any potential fee increase. Ridgeway said his fee recommendation will be $8.40 and $8.60 per credit hour, depending on the UF administration's estimate for the number of students and their average credit hours.

In addition to the normal annual increase that accounts for inflation and Student Body growth, this year's increase in budget also can be attributed to several factors, Ridgeway said. Rising prices for fossil fuels and water helped push the Reitz Union budget up more than $200,000 from last year to $3,711,400.

Furthermore, the operation of new scoreboards for flag football and soccer teams added nearly $10,000 to the Division of Recreational Sports budget for a total of $3,630,544.

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Convention opens in NYC

REPUBLICANS ATTACK JOHN KERRY'S WAR RECORD AND INCONSISTENCIES.

NEW YORK — Republicans belittled Democratic Sen. John Kerry as a shift-in-the-wind campaigner unworthy of the White House on Monday at the opening of their national convention, lavishing praise on President Bush as a steady, decisive leader in an age of terrorism.

"In this great struggle, we need a commander in chief who is a beacon, not a weather vane," said Rep. Heath Wilson of New Mexico in remarks prepared for delivery to delegates gathered four miles from the site where terrorists struck on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We have one in George W. Bush."

"In this great struggle, we need a commander in chief who is a beacon, not a weather vane. We have one in George W. Bush."

"Kerry is weak on war and wrong on taxes," added House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois.

Bush campaigned in New Hampshire as the GOP opened its four-day gathering and triggered an instant campaign stir where it (the gay rights movement) has been and to see what's happening now."

"It's absolutely incredible to come from the group has campaigned for a coordinated LGBT students feel uncomfortable on campus, professor Linda Lamme, who chairs the LGBT Concerns Committee, said of several community and student organizations that tabled at the assembly.

"We've just come such a long way, but..." she said.

LGBTQ forum reflects acceptance

LGBTQ forum reflects acceptance

"It's so important for us to get out and vote so we can prove to our representatives that we care and that we can be a force in our city, our county and our community," said Ketasia Julmeus, president of UF College Democrats.
CITY COMMISSION
City agrees to shoulder funding for party patrol

By NICK WEIDENMILLER
Alligator Writer
weidenmiller@alligator.org

The Gainesville City Commission agreed to pay for the police department to continue attending student parties this year.

At its special budget meeting Monday night, the commission recommended continuing funding for Gainesville Police's party patrol.

The program will operate under a $135,000 budget when the patrol's current grant expires on Sept. 30.

This means that the program will receive the same amount of money it did in previous years, only now the city will be funding it.

Commissioner Rick Bryant said he believes in the program and was glad the commission had the votes to maintain it.

"I have talked to people who were getting ready to leave Gainesville and have stayed," he said of the positive influence of the party patrol on neighborhoods.

The program is very helpful in areas in which college students and local residents coexist, Bryant said.

Commissioner Warren Nielsen said that if more funding was needed during the year, the commission then could vote to allocate more money from their reserve account.

The commission also voted to approve funding to beautify Alachua County in anticipation of UF President Bernie Machen's upcoming inauguration.

Rather than settle a dispute over the way this money would be spent, Bryant said anyone questioning its use should even consider a Senate run.

He is not welcome in Gainesville," Griner said.

Kennedy Homes Tenant Association President Vanessa Anthony said Kennedy Homes cannot trust Martinez to be their senator if they could not trust him when he worked for President Bush.

"He could have made things a lot easier on the families," she said.

Members of the complex were out of their homes for more than a month last winter.

The event was attended only by the speakers and members of the media, but the speakers said they will continue their efforts until November if necessary.

"If he was not responsible for Kennedy Homes, how can he be responsible for all of Florida?" Chuck Chestnut City Commissioner

Alachua County Ministerial Alliance representative Milford Griner was on hand with signs that read "This is a no Mel zone" and "Tell the truth Mel."

Griner said Martinez tried to pass quickly through Gainesville while campaigning to dodge questions about the way he did, or didn't, deal with the Kennedy Homes issue.

"It's not my time to do this anymore," Chestnut said.

Martinez never replied.

Chestnut brought to the rally letters sent to Martinez's office, telling him about the need for intervention during November and December.

He said Martinez did nothing to address the plight of the Kennedy Homes residents.

"It sounds like he was an appointed figure who didn't do anything," Chestnut said.

"If he was not responsible for Kennedy Homes, how can he be responsible for all of Florida?"

Chuck Chestnut City Commissioner

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"If he was not responsible for Kennedy Homes, how can he be responsible for all of Florida?" Chestnut said.

Griner said he does not think Martinez should even consider a Senate run.

"If he was running for U.S. dog catcher we would still be out here protesting his campaign," he said.

A Martinez campaign spokeswoman said anyone questioning their candidate's service while at the HUD also should reference comments endorsing him made by President Bush.

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IRHA accepting candidates for seat

IRHA, from page 1

$250 Gator Dining Services card.

Olson was the "Writing on the Wall" co-director in Summer 2003 and Spring 2004.

The project encouraged students to confront racism by painting racial slurs on concrete blocks.

Students then destroyed the blocks.

Olson also was a member of the IRHA for more than eight semesters and most recently lobbied SG for an additional bus for the Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol, also known as SNAP.

Olson did not rule out the possibility of helping the resident group again in the future.

"It's not my time to do this anymore," were Olson's final words to the 26-member crowd.
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Classifieds

Continued on next page.
Zook hints at fill-ins for suspended linebacker

After he hinted last week that suspended All-Southeastern Conference linebacker Channing Crowder would be replaced by true freshman Brandon Siler for the Gators' game against Middle Tennessee State, UF coach Ron Zook added another name to the possible list of fill-ins.

Junior Todd McCullough, who has battled a high ankle sprain throughout camp, is as healthy as he's been all summer and is currently participating in every drill during practice. And although Zook continues to rave about Siler's progression in the system, the veteran McCullough will see time in Crowder's absence as well.

"Right now, [Siler] is the best guy to be in there," Zook said, "but I still think that Todd McCullough is going to play. He practiced, did everything today and he was fine. So, there is no guarantee on who is going to be in there."

McCullough started the first two games for UF last season and played against Tennessee. However, he suffered a shoulder injury and underwent season-ending surgery before the Gators' sixth game of the year against Mississippi. He received a medical redshirt and devoted the rest of his season to rehabilitation.

Now, McCullough, who before the emergence of Crowder, many pointed to as UF's best linebacker, has the opportunity to remind those who forgot about him that he will be in the Gators' starting lineup again.

McCullough's health, the starter's spot remains undecided.

"Because of what [Middle Tennessee] does personnel-wise," Zook said, "there will be a lot of guys playing. It'll be game time before you know who is starting, really."

While exactly which linebackers start the game remains in question, Zook did say which three safeties would take the field with the starting corner backs if the Gators open the game in a nickel formation. And since MTSU runs an offense that features an abundance of multiple receiver sets, that remains likely.

"The nickel would probably be Zephyrin [Augustine], Cory [Bailey] and Hot Tamales [Terrence Holmes] in there as safeties."

Those three would join corner backs Reynaldo Hill and Dee Webb to complete the nickel package.

SPILLING THE BACKS: Zook is sticking with his plan to have UF's running backs split time. The two that will receive the most carries, junior Ciatrick Faison and sophomore DeShawn Wynn, are close and don't mind splitting the carries, Zook said.

"They're good buddies," Zook said.

Zook said it's important that the boys understand their roles, that they both understand their roles and that the better they're going to be, the more they can save themselves, the better they're going to be," Zook said.

"I think they understand that the more they can save themselves, the better they're going to be," Zook said.

— BRIAN SHAFFER AND IAN FISHER

Unranked, weak opponents cast a shadow on UF's first games

Finally, preseason football is here. It's a glorified preseason.

Wait, there's no preseason in college? Could've fooled me.

Take a look at UF's first two games — it's a doubleheader.

Now, McCullough, who before the emergence of Crowder, many pointed to as UF's best linebacker, has the opportunity to remind those who forgot about him that he will be in the Gators' starting lineup again.

Zook is the only team in either of the polls that is a directional school.

The difference is because the Eastern Michigan contract was signed in 1993, while the UAA signed the MTSU contract in 2003.

It's not just the Gators, though. It's a problem throughout college football. For example, the University Athletic Association paid MTSU $550,000 and Eastern Michigan $350,000 to lose.

That's $900,000 for two victories. I wish I could buy grades like college teams can buy wins.

The difference is because the Eastern Michigan contract was signed in 1993, while the UAA signed the MTSU contract in 2003.

It's not just the Gators, though. It's a problem throughout college football. For example, Georgia plays powerhouse Georgia Southern. Why don't these good programs just schedule a different directional team? A team from the Southwest Recreation Center maybe? It wouldn't cost them any money and the games would be just as lopsided.

OK... probably more lopsided, but after it gets to be a 50-point advantage, no one cares anyway. Tickets were still available for both of UF's first two games as of Monday afternoon. Why? Just take a look at the stands by the end of the game if it turns out to be the blowout that I expect. They'll be as empty as the opponent's side of the scoreboard.

But don't worry, there are no directional schools on UF's 2005 schedule. Just currently-ranked No. 94 Louisiana Tech and No. 110 Wyoming.

To UF and other schools across the nation, it looks like a win is a win. Never mind the triple-digit ranking or the direction in front of the opponent's side of the scoreboard.

SCOREBOARD

MLB
San Francisco
6
Atlanta
7
Florida
6
New York Mets
4

INSIDE
As the men's basketball team prepares for another season, freshmen Joakim Noah and Taurean Green received praise from Coach Billy Donovan.

See story, pg. 18.

UP NEXT
The UF football team will hold its first game-week media day of the 2004 season today. Stay tuned to Wednesday's Alligator for complete coverage.

ON TELEVISION
Tennis: U.S. Open
USA, 11 a.m.
UF: Florida at New York Mets
Fox Sports Network, 7 p.m.
MEN’S BASKETBALL
Donovan confident about UF’s talented freshmen

By ANDREW ABRAMSON
Alligator Staff Writer
aabramson@alligator.org

There’s a new sense of togetherness brewing on the practice court of the UF men’s basketball team.

“Jo is one of the best human beings I’ve ever met,” senior forward David Lee said. “He’s a very free-spirited guy, and he’s really made my life a lot better, and I’m just trying to make him better, going hard at him everyday.”

Joakim Noah Forward/Center
6’11/227
New York, N.Y./Lawrenceville Prep (N.J.)

Prep highlights: Guided Lawrenceville Prep to the State Championship his senior season, averaging 24.0 points and 12.0 rebounds

Green’s going to be a very skilled guard, a playground guard,” Roberson said. “He comes from a place like me, where he loves to play basketball, and he’s been playing basketball all his life. He’s very crafty.”

With Roberson possibly going pro after this season, Green could find himself in the starting lineup by his sophomore year.

For now, he is taking advice from the veteran guard and hoping he can add a little to Roberson’s game:

“Prep’s a great player, one of the top guards in the country,” Green said. “He’s making me better.”

“One thing about Jo at 6-foot-11 is that he’s got a very good touch for a big guy,” Coach Billy Donovan said. “He’s a tremendous runner, he’s a very good passer and handler for a guy his size and being so young.”

At times last season, UF’s frontcourt failed to step up. Lee, Adrian Moss and Chris Richard return while Noah and freshman Al Horford add depth at the position.

Noah may be the most intriguing big man on the team. He’s the tallest player on the team and currently listed at 227 pounds, but is very lengthy in appearance.

“We’ve got some of the longest guys in America on our team,” junior swingman Matt Walsh said. “[Noah’s] got real long arms. He may look lean, but he’s a strong kid. It’ll be a good advantage having him because you don’t play against guys that big and long.”

While the frontcourt veterans are excited about Noah’s potential, the backcourt still needs a point guard to spell Anthony Roberson.

Noah has lived in Europe, Africa and the United States.

He grooves out to Bob Marley, often lugging his boom box around campus. Noah is also 6-foot-11 and possibly growing. His mere presence has jolted the team.

Joakim Noah’s father is the 1983 French Open tennis champion, turned pop music star in France.

Noah isn’t your typical basketball player.

Taurean Green, a 6-foot guard from Boca Raton, also lived in Europe, Africa and the United States.

He averaged 21.0 points and 9.0 assists and 5.0 rebounds his senior year.

Taurean Green Guard
6’0/177
Boca Raton, Fla./Cardinal Gibbons High School

Prep highlights: Runner-up for Mr. Basketball in the state of Florida his senior season, averaging 30 points, 9.0 assists and 5.0 rebounds

St. Laurentian Sun-Sentinel 3A-1A Player of the Year

Had two games of 50+ points his senior year

Averaged 21.0 points and 9.0 assists in his junior season at Bradenton Pendleton Academy

Noah’s mother, Cecilia Rodhe, was a Swedish beauty queen.

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Gators relieved by schedule

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2004

Gators relieved, by schedule

Nik West / Alligator Staff

UF women’s basketball coach Carolyn Peck will lead her team into the 2004 campaign after a 19-11 season.

UF women’s basketball coach Carolyn Peck will lead her team into the 2004 campaign after a 19-11 season.

On Dec. 19, the Gators face off with Baylor in their only non-conference road game this season. Baylor defeated the Gators twice last year, with their second meeting coming in the second round of the NCAA tournament. This year’s matchup is a part of the Southeastern Conference-Big 12 Challenge.

The O’Connell Center will host the State Farm Classic after a one-year hiatus. On Dec. 29 and 30, the Gators will host Boston, Charlotte and Florida A&M. The non-conference schedule is capped off by a home game against South Florida on Jan. 2.

“We feel our non-conference schedule will prepare us for the Southeastern Conference, where every team presents a huge challenge,” Peck said.

The start of SEC play means the Gators face NCAA heavyweights Georgia, Louisiana State, Tennessee and Vanderbilt. After a date at Arkansas on Jan. 6, UF opens home SEC play with Auburn on Jan. 9.

While the Gators meet up with powerhouse Tennessee once, in Gainesville on Feb. 3, they have home and home series against Georgia, LSU and Vanderbilt.

LSU comes into town on Jan. 13. The Gators also finish their season with LSU on Feb. 27. However, one week could determine UF’s standing in the SEC East and in the national picture.

On Jan. 27, UF travels to Georgia, and on the 30th plays at Vanderbilt. Four days later, UF meets Tennessee. While the Gators went 4-2 against these squads last season, three challenging opponents in a week’s span could pose problems.

The Gators finish the home docket with games against Mississippi State on Feb. 13, Vanderbilt on Feb. 20 and Georgia on Feb. 24.

UF hopes that its roster, with eight upperclassmen, can improve on last year’s 19-11 record and can lead the team back to the NCAA tournament.

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A TOUGH LOSS: Sophomore goalkeeper Colleen Donovan has officially retired due to chronic knee injuries. She first tore her right anterior cruciate ligament early in her freshman year and after months of rehabilitation, tore the same ACL last year.

Despite attempting to return as the Gators’ backup goalkeeper, Donovan could no longer play through the pain. Junior Jen Gardner has now moved from defender to goalkeeper.

Sophomore Melanie Booth, a team captain, is one of the unheralded leaders of the Gators. Because she plays the midfield position, she won’t put too many points on the board.

Furthermore, senior forward Ashley Kellgren is the consensus go-to player, the No. 12 Gators (2-0) have exhibited that they are not just a one-star team.

Although senior forward Ashley Kellgren is the consensus go-to player, the No. 12 Gators (2-0) have exhibited that they are not just a one-star team.

All-American Stephanie Freeman found her game against Florida International, scoring two goals in less than a seven-minute span. The first goal was crucial, breaking open a game that had been tied.

“I don’t know if the first game was a mental thing or not,” Freeman said. “As a leader, I knew I needed to pick up the team by picking up my game.”

Fellow senior Christine Johnson has been an undeniable offensive weapon for Coach Becky Burleigh as well.

“THey’re two to see CJ succeed,” Burleigh said. “We have been trying to put her in more opportunities to score, and she has definitely done her part.”

Johnson has not disappointed, scoring a goal in both games so far and adding an assist.

Of course, not every member on the team is trained to put points on the scoreboard. Sophomore Melanie Booth is the unselfish leader for the Gators. Although she may not have as many assists as Kellgren or as many goals as Freeman said.

“I’m happy to see CJ succeed,” Burleigh said. “This team is so awesome because we really feed off the girls on the sideline.”

FRESHMEN OUTBREAK: Despite losing four starting seniors, Burleigh was never worried as the incoming talent was supposed to be good enough that veterans had to fight for their jobs.

Daniela Sanchez, Shana Hudson and Liz Ruberry were part of the freshmen trio that started the home opener against Dayton.

Hudson validated the coach’s decision by exhibiting relentless pursuit of the ball in the midfield and showing off her closing speed on defense.

Jasmine Johnson, a highly touted recruit from Clearwater, scored a goal in her very first match and did so coming off the bench.

“All we freshmen stick together and hang out all the time,” Johnson said. “The older girls on the team really make us feel at home too.”

The Gators most confident newcomer might be Nikita Waller, who has played exceptionally well. She took a pass from Sanchez and fired a 20-yard shot that the FIU goalkeeper blocked with her hands but the ball still managed to find the back of the net.

“We’ve got some dangerous freshmen out there,” Burleigh said. “Nikita is so much fun to watch, Jasmine got a goal, and Shana Hudson plays like a veteran.”

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