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'Basketball Diaries' author speaks

By [LINDSAY TAULBEE](#)

Alligator Writer

The mood in the Reitz Union Auditorium on Tuesday night shifted from light to somber and back as "The Basketball Diaries" author Jim Carroll read several of his works to a mostly student audience of about 100.

Clad all in black, the poet, author, singer and former heroin addict drew laughs as he read about the worst job he ever had, a fat bat that flew into his bedroom and a performance art piece that involved killing a cockroach.

"I'm guilty of going for the yuks with the prose pieces," he said.

Carroll is best known for "Diaries," which was made into a movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio in 1995.

Reading from one essay entitled "A Day at the Races," Carroll depicted a time he and his girlfriend found they had contracted genital crabs.

"I felt hygiene deficient," he read.

Cleaning themselves of the parasites, he said his girlfriend saved a few of them in the jar and then raced them.

"God, what a woman," he read, "who can turn an ailment into a viable recreation."

Carroll's performance also featured the poem "Facts," which included some statements that were true.

"Others are facts that I made up," he said.

For example, the poem he read described the static electricity that can be generated by dragging a large cat for 16 hours across a shag carpet.

Danielle Truscio, a UF history student, attended the event with her brother.

"I really enjoyed the prose, personally. Very intriguing. Very funny," she said.

She added she felt as though Carroll interacted with those in attendance.

"I liked how personal he was with the audience," she said.

The Reitz Union Board's RUB Week sponsored the event.



Nick West / Alligator Staff
Jim Carroll, author of "The Basketball Diaries," reads excerpts of his works Tuesday night at the Reitz Union Auditorium.

Wednesday, March 23, 2005 2:00 am

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Nick West / Alligator Staff

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[Costs of decals, housing, Gator 1 cards to increase](#)

UF students will have to pay the university more next year for some of their basic services, after UF's highest governing board approved increases in Gator 1 Card, housing and parking costs.

[Students vote again for future leadership](#)

Today is the last day to vote for the Student Government runoff election that will decide who wins control over more than \$11 million in student funds, and so far approximately 8 percent of the student body has voted.

['West Wing' actor to speak at Reitz Union](#)

Actor and activist Josh Molina will speak tonight at 7:30 in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom about his experiences in Hollywood and his life as a Jewish activist.

['Basketball Diaries' author speaks](#)

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[Dance Marathon kicks in](#)

The 11-day countdown to the 11th annual Dance Marathon began with line dancing on Turlington Plaza on Tuesday. Between classes, morale captains — students in charge of spirit events and choreography — performed last year's line dance to a medley of songs.

[Professor advances PC](#)

A UF engineering professor is using the concept of ordered chaos to develop a new computer prototype.

[UF sophomore aids in debate](#)

There was no debate as to what Brianna Coakley wanted out of college. As a senior in high school, she visited colleges and immediately spoke with their debate team coaches.

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