

'Basketball Diaries' author speaks

Poems, prose performed at Reitz

By **LINDSAY TAULBEE**
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The mood in the Reitz Union Auditorium on Tuesday night shifted from light to somber and back

again 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 ad-

dict 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.

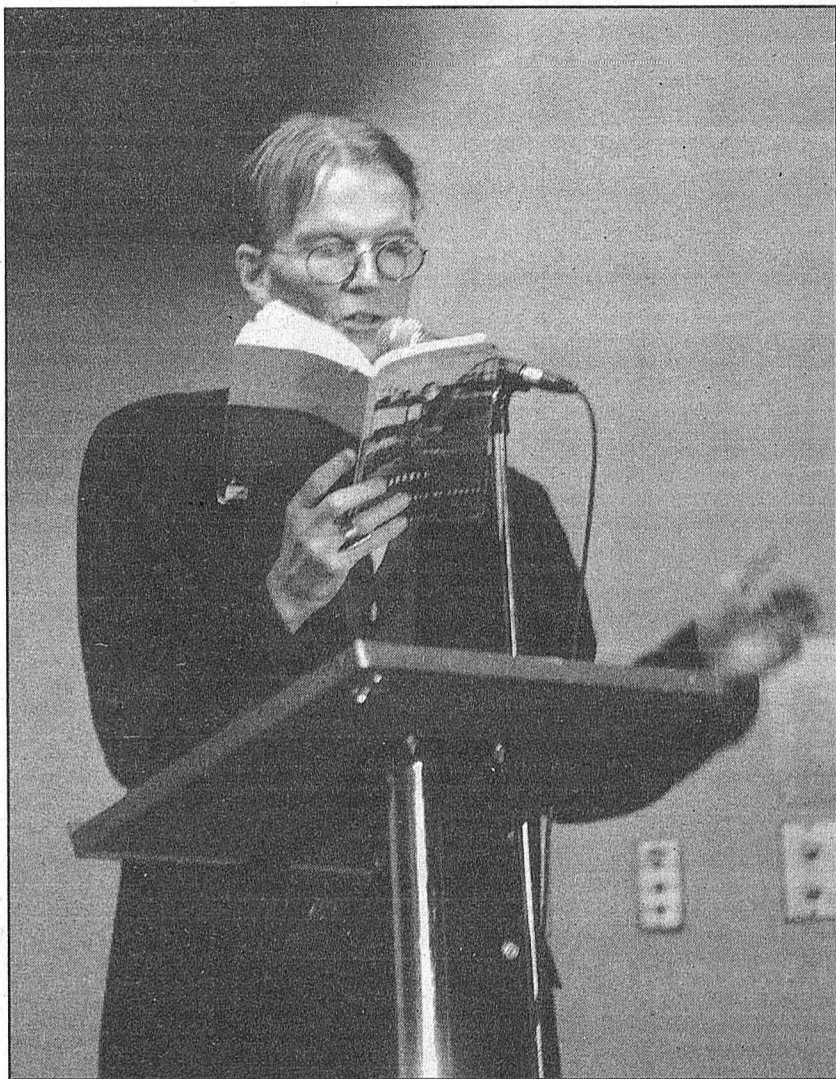
Danielle Truscio, a UF history student, attended the event with her brother.

"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.

ELECTIONS 2005

Mayor talks to Student Senate

By **IVETTE MENDEZ**
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Contrary to what vying Student Government parties Gator and Impact may lead students to believe, SG cannot change local ordinances without city approval.

Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan spoke at Tuesday night's Student Senate meeting to inform students about the importance of their involvement in local government.

The final say in issues such as bar and club closing times and room towing rates do not come from UF's Student Government, or its administration for that matter, she said.

Those decisions lie in the hands of Gainesville's seven City Commissioners, three of whom are up for re-election March 29.

"It certainly does affect you while you are here," Hanrahan said.

Last year, the mayoral election that eventually put Hanrahan in office took place during UF's Spring Break. Students and faculty are a big constituency, making up about half of Gainesville's population.

"In Gainesville, you have to get 50 percent plus one to win," Hanrahan said. "I had to go to a runoff because it was Spring Break time."

One difficult part of being mayor, she said, is that she cannot say whom she supports in the upcoming election. Her position makes Hanrahan a member on the city's Canvassing Board, which tallies ballots.

"I'm not taking a position this election," Hanrahan said.

It's tough because whoever gets into office has a huge impact, she said.

To show students whether they are eligible to vote in the District 2 or 3 race — the At-Large seat can be voted on by any resident of Gainesville — Hanrahan brought a city map with the electoral districts delineated.

"I am in District 4, which is not up for re-election at this time," Hanrahan said, dodging the question of her vote for this election.

She said she wants students to take part in making UF a better school, to make UF a Top 10 public research university so degrees earned here would be worth more in the job market, Hanrahan said.

"Both Gainesville and the university have that goal," she said.

The mayor ended by emphasizing the changes students can make in government.



Hanrahan

Commission hopefuls weigh in on Gainesville safety issues

By **ELIZABETH PRANN**
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The nine candidates vying for three City Commission seats took on the city-wide issue of public safety at Tuesday night's forum at the United Christ Church of Gainesville.

The issue was focused to the four open-forum participants in the race for the Gainesville-wide elected At-Large City Commission seat — incumbent Rick Bryant and candidates Dyonne McGraw, a realtor, carpenter Rob Brinkman and attorney Gabe Kaimowitz.

In an interview prior to the forum, Kaimowitz said his biggest concern was the tumultuous relationship between local police and the black community.

He referred to an incident that occurred about a year ago when officers disrupted a downtown arts festival, confiscating videotapes and other materials from about 11 merchants. Allegations of racial discrimination stemmed from the incident.

"Relations are tense despite what you hear," he said, adding that neither the black community nor law enforcement is approaching the issue properly.

Another improvement he would like to see is a certain amount of money set aside for more personnel and increases

in salary.

"It comes down to the ability to mediate or negotiate," he said.

In addition, Kaimowitz said he would like to see more diversity, with at least one black female firefighter working for the city again, adding that though there used to be one, she is no longer with the force.

"Relations are tense despite what you hear."

Gabe Kaimowitz

At-Large City Commission candidate

Lastly, Kaimowitz said at the forum that although he is 70-years-old, he has never seen a community in which the leading spokesperson is a police officer, noting that the situation leaves room for distortion and crass conclusions without supportive data.

On the other hand, candidate Rob Brinkman, whose platform priority is a healthy community for children, proposed prevention as the solution to Gainesville's public safety issues.

He said there are 2,400 inmates released annually from the prison located in Starke, about 30 minutes away from the heart of Gainesville, and that many of them head back in to

Alachua County.

"There has to be a better way," he said.

He said he also agrees with prevention programs aimed at juveniles that intend to deter them from prison.

Bryant, who states that his platform is stronger and safer neighborhoods, also discussed juvenile issues.

He told listeners about the success of Teen Zone, an after-school program designed to prevent juvenile crimes during the afternoon hours between the end of school and before parents return from work.

"Public safety is job No. 1," Bryant said, touting his record of supporting an increase in budget for the Gainesville Police Department.

He was present when the commission allocated 275 laptops to patrol vehicles with the intention of preventing them from making trips back to the station, keeping them in neighborhoods because they can verify information in their vehicles.

McGraw, who prides herself on her community and social service participation that dates back more than 10 years, also is a proponent for increasing public safety.

"It's an important issue all across town," McGraw said, adding her concern that implementation of any programs be done equitably across Gainesville, as well as addressing homelessness and poverty.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2005

Bill aims to control 'leftist' professors

■ THE LAW COULD LET STUDENTS SUE FOR UNTOLERATED BELIEFS.

By **JAMES VANLANDINGHAM**
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TALLAHASSEE — Republicans on the House Choice and Innovation Committee voted along party lines Tuesday to pass a bill

that aims to stamp out "leftist totalitarianism" by "dictator professors" in the classrooms of Florida's universities.

The Academic Freedom Bill of Rights, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Baxley, R-Ocala, passed 8-to-2 despite strenuous objections from the only two Democrats on the committee.

The bill has two more committees to pass before it can be considered by the full House.

While promoting the bill Tuesday, Baxley said a university education should be more

than "one biased view by the professor, who as a dictator controls the classroom," as part of "a misuse of their platform to indoctrinate the next generation with their own views."

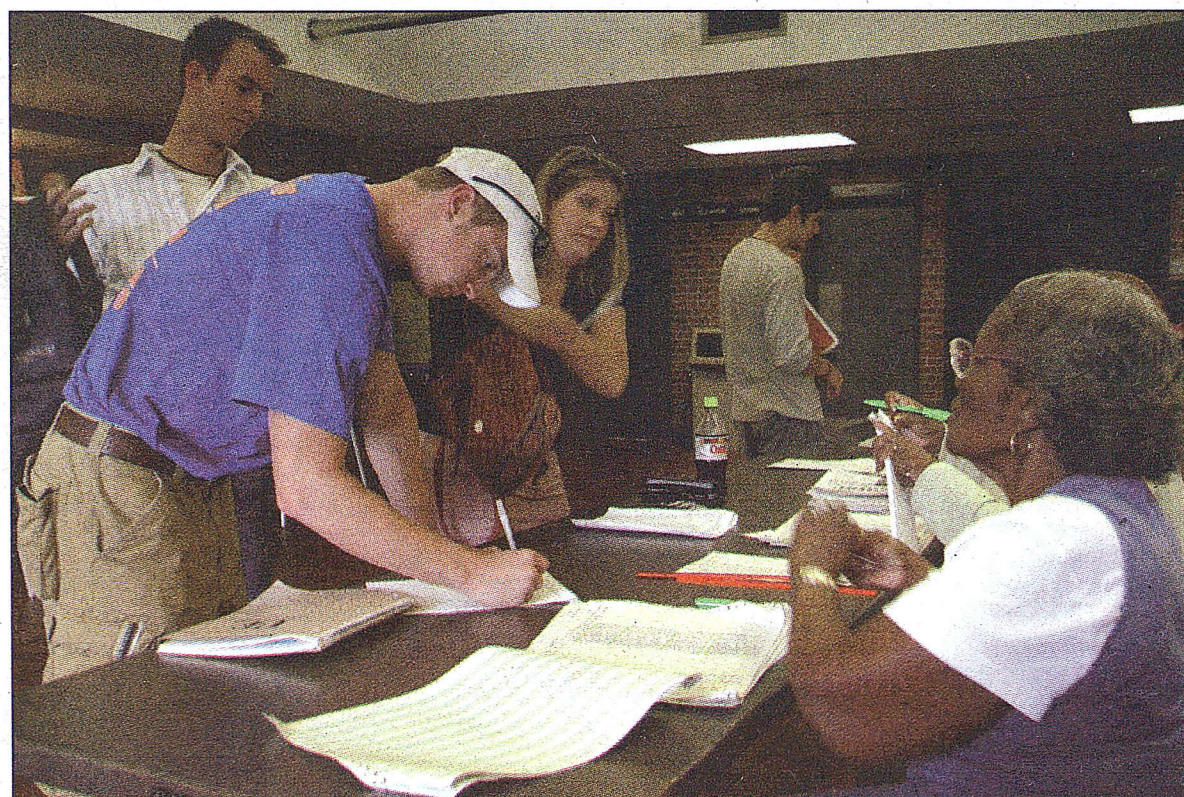
The bill sets a statewide standard that students cannot be punished for professing beliefs with which their professors disagree. Professors would also be advised to teach alternative "serious academic theories" that may disagree with their personal views.

According to a legislative staff analysis

of the bill, the law would give students who think their beliefs are not being respected legal standing to sue professors and universities.

Students who believe their professor is singling them out for "public ridicule" — for instance, when professors use the Socratic method to force students to explain their theories in class — would also be given the right to sue.

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Tricia Coyne / Alligator Staff

As students patiently wait their turn, sophomore Phil Bean signs the necessary forms before receiving a ballot to cast his vote in the Student Government runoff election.

SG ELECTIONS

Students vote again for future leadership

By **BRIDGET CAREY**
and **NEIL HUGHES**
Alligator Staff Writers

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.

Approximately 4,013 students voted Tuesday, SG Supervisor of Elections Ali Blye said. At midnight, she will announce whether the Gator Party or Impact Party won the Student Body executive ticket.

Compared to the first voting day last week, 253 less voters showed up to the polls Tuesday.

In round two of the election, the executive candidates face off again because neither Gator nor

Impact were able to wrestle away more than 50 percent of the vote, thanks to the Progress and Voice parties.

Gator came the closest to breaking the 50 percent barrier, winning 48.89 percent of the total votes for the president and vice president race. Impact received 29.94 percent in the same field.

Voters' viewpoints

Rain and blustery weather were factors in last week's general election with a two-day total turnout of 9,150 voters. Weather was better Tuesday, which is one of the reasons first-year UF student Mike Pensky took a few minutes to cast his vote.

"I figured I might as well have my voice heard," Pensky said, adding that he saw today's elec-

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Costs of decals, housing, Gator 1 cards to increase

Higher prices will go toward facility maintenance

By **STEPHANIE GARRY** and **EMILY YEHLE**
Alligator Staff Writers

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.

The Board of Trustees overwhelmingly approved the hikes Tuesday. But Student Body President Jamal Sowell, the only

student on the board, voted against housing increases but in favor of the other hikes.

Gator 1 makeover

Instead of paying \$10 for a new or replacement Gator 1 identification card, students will have to pay \$15.

The increase will help pay for new equipment that will create a better card, said David Looney, manager of UF ID Card Services.

The cards have stayed the same price for at least 10 years, he said. They also are cheaper than at any other Florida university, said Jim Morgan, director of UF Business Services.

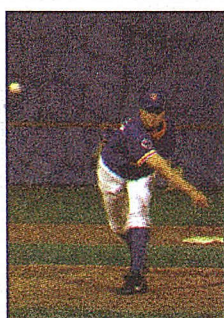
Currently, the hologram on the right-hand corner is created using a foil-like piece inserted between the card and the outer plastic layer, causing the protective layer to peel.

"I think there's no question that the quality of card we've been issuing has been causing problems," Looney said.

The new ID would have a hologram similar to those used

SEE TRUSTEES, PAGE 10

■ Pitcher Bryan Augenstein gave up three runs in 2.1 innings in UF's 17-6 win against Central Florida. See story, pg. 18



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■ The property was swarming with Alachua County Sheriff's Office detectives, who directed one investigator to a small utility shed in the backyard. There, within a trash can, were the remains of James Ralph Looney. See story, pg. 9.

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