



Megan Winslow / Alligator Staff

Great expectations

The warm glow of a popcorn machine illuminating his face, 2-year-old Victor Cabrera waits patiently for UF Diplomat volunteers to hand him his own bag of fresh-popped kernels Monday evening at McGuire Village. Known as "Haunted Housing," the event celebrated its fourth consecutive year.

Fines for noise violations increase

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Starting today, students will receive a \$125 fine for noise violations. The previous fine was \$50.

Gainesville City Commissioners unanimously approved the increase that also will affect other property-related violations, such as trash and yard maintenance, Monday.

"You vote that thing down, and the budget is all messed up," City Commissioner Tony Domenech said about his reluctant decision to vote for the increase.

Fines are a revenue source for the city.

However, Mayor Tom Bussing said earlier that the fine's intention was to gain compliance, not revenue. He said high fines were sometimes necessary to get residents to follow the law.

Domenech, who voted for the increase three times, said he did not agree with it but chooses not to fight this battle.

"It was not a battle I wanted to emotionally or psychologically fight," he said. "There

seemed to be a strong will on the commission [for the increase]."

Bussing and Domenech agree about further increases to a fine against towing companies.

Towing companies are fined for improperly towing vehicles from private property.

Bussing said he considered a \$250 fine; Domenech said that number might be too low.

The maximum the city could charge for the fine would be \$500, according to Florida law.

The Ignite and Student Alliance parties again were absent in voicing their concerns during the debate. Both promised to be the students' voices during Fall elections.

Previously:

First Offense: Warning
Second Offense, within 90-day period: \$50
Third Offense, within new 90-day period: \$50

Now:

First Offense: Warning
Second Offense, within 90-day period: \$125
Third Offense, within new 90-day period: \$125

Bulldogs matchup could determine SEC champ

Raise your glasses high. If you're a fan of either team at the "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party" on Saturday, you might be making a toast for the Southeastern Conference Champion.

In undoubtedly one of the biggest conference games of the season, the UF-Georgia matchup in

Jacksonville again could decide the winner of the SEC East.

Would you expect anything less? Well, most didn't foresee the No. 23 Gators (5-3, 3-2 SEC) skating back into the title picture just weeks ago, as UF sagged its shoulders with a 3-3 record.

See story pg. 18.



■ UF anthropologists say life 4,800 years ago was vastly different for the Native American male whose remains were found on a central Florida sod farm. See story pg. 5.

■ Looking back at the 16 top stories in UF's history, the Alligator revisits Alachua County's vote to lift the ban on the sale of alcohol. See story pg. 5.

Today

FORECAST 2
OPINIONS 6
CLASSIFIEDS 12
CROSSWORD 16
SPORTS 18



Partly cloudy
56/78

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