

heads up

Campus Cleanup Draws 66 Students

New Philanthropy Chair

Evan Crowe was elected philanthropy chair by chapter on Feb. 1. He plans to continue to support the MS Walk on April 10.

Epsilon Lambda Pledges

Chapter extended bids to 35 rushes to join the Epsilon Lambda pledge class on Feb. 1.

CALENDAR

- Feb. 7**
First Epsilon Lambda Pledge Class Meeting
- Feb. 24**
Constitutional Meeting
- Feb. 26-28**
Inter-Chapter Weekend at UF
- Feb. 27**
World's Largest Water Balloon Fight against Breast Cancer
- March 6-13**
UF Spring Break
- March 19-21**
Tri-Sectional Conference at Florida Tech in Melbourne
- March 26-28**
Spring Weekend
- Dec. 27-30**
Biennial National Convention in Atlanta

INDEX

- Grayson Tomato.....2
- Spring Rush.....3
- Inter-Chapter Weekend..3
- Cleanup Photos.....4
- Crossword.....4



photos/Lindsay Webber

By: Lindsay Webber

Tau Chapter hosted a campus-wide cleanup event called “The Campus Cleanup Extravaganza” on Jan. 16. The new executive board wanted to start the semester with a bang, by getting brothers and potential rushes excited about service with a fun event. The week before, we made a huge deal of the event in chapter and went around campus advertising fun, service, and free food.

Teams of five to seven formed at the booth early on a Saturday morning, and then had an hour and a half to go around campus in their teams picking up as much trash as possible.

Afterwards there was a celebratory cookout at the booth, complete with cookies, chips, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Prizes were awarded to

the team who collected the most trash, the team with the most spirit, and the team that collected the strangest item during the cleanup.

Despite the overcast weather, 47 brothers turned out, and there were 66 participants overall. Team Extreme wore matching hot pink t-shirts and pigtails with pink ribbons. For this as well as their well-planned cheer in the Cheer off, they won the award for Most Spirited.



Other teams showed spirit as well. Team Domination chanted their name throughout the entire day. The Burninators tried to intimidate the competition with their “mean faces” as well as their secret weapon, David Wolfe.

Two members of Oscar the Grouch, Rob

See **CLEANUP**, page 4



See your family line, little or favorite service project in our next issue!

Submit your article or photos to TCT by Tuesday, March 16.

Brothers receive 1/2 hour of service for each article submitted! Send your photo or articles via e-mail to: rarens@gmail.com

The Legend of the Grayson Tomato

By: Greg Bramlett and Adam Wolfe

The Grayson Tomato symbolizes everything that is epic, awesome, and Grayson. It was started by Andy Grayson 39 years ago in 1970. Andy Grayson founded the Tomato at the same time that he and his fellow Graysons created a mini-movie called "The Killer Tomato."

This action-comedy was Jackie Chan's first movie (the movie was not released so Chan refuses to acknowledge his presence).

It was then a tradition in the Grayson family from then on that each decade the Grayson family must create an epic mini-movie with the words "killer" and "tomato" in the title. The next rendition of this movie is expected to be released in mid 2010.

The Tomato and its traditions were forgotten by the Graysons until Greg Bramlett revived it in 2009. Greg, also known as "Garg" and "Meaty Greggles", met Andy Grayson and was fortunate enough to be shown the original "The Killer Tomato." He was also able to see an actual picture from the 1970's Grayson family in which all active members were doing the Gray-

son Tomato hand gesture.

This piece of historic evidence was lost since Andy and Greg were observing the picture while white water rafting on Class 5 rapids. A piranha jumped out of the rapids and bit Andy in the arm, causing him to drop the picture. Greg proceeded to jump into the rapids to try and save the picture, but it was washed away.



Greg then proceeded to swim the remainder of the rapids without a life vest out of sheer anger and manliness. Andy then jumped in as well and killed the entire school of piranhas and fed starving children with the fish.

This tradition is a verbal and physical gesture. The hand gesture used was stolen by the Levys in 1988. Their corruption of the tomato is "Levy Love" in which they make a heart out of their hands. The Grayson Tomato requires both hands to form a tomato.

A great man once said "Imitation is the greatest form of flattery," and this is how the "Levy Love heart" came into being. While the Graysons are flattered, they also want to be clear that the Tomato is in no way similar to the "Levy love heart". The Tomato has real meaning and is truly epic.

The Tomato can also be used as a greeting, instead of saying "What's up?", it is completely fine to say "Grayson Tomato" and do the hand gesture. To properly greet using the Grayson Tomato, a head nod is also needed. If you raise and lower your eyebrows then it is considered even cooler.

In addition, instead of saying goodbye, the Grayson Tomato can be used in a similar fashion. This is considered more personal than just saying bye.

A tomato would seem a very unlikely symbol for a group of men. However, tomatoes are very versatile - they can be used to make a variety of food products including ketchup, catsup, stewed tomatoes, and ratatouille. Tomatoes come in many shapes and sizes. The tomato is the swiss army knife of the vegetable group if you will.

Versatility is one of the cornerstones of the Grayson family - clearly, a family consisting of all boy scouts is prepared for any situation, just like a tomato. Tomatoes are also healthy and, of course, everybody needs a healthy dose of Grayson lovin'.

The forming of the Tomato with the hands is a gesture that symbolizes brotherhood and brothers coming together. The bond between those who form the Grayson Tomato is unbreakable by any human means.

Epsilon Lambda Pledge Class

Big:

Alexis Martin
Alisha Feldman
Alysha Fridley
Alyssa Freeman
Amanda Page
Amanda Prats
Becca Burgan
Camille Liebnitzky
Catherine Hibbit
Chadia Clarke
Charles Kramer
Chris Tingley
Christy Collins
Emily Sasser
Jerome Graham
John Coop
Jon Telles
Katie Kafer

Little:

Rachel Wolfe
Anna Raymond
Alex Nesta
Curie Ham
Erika Johnson
Belkis Callaos
Tara Tamaskow
Nicole Shaw
Lisette Varela
Jose Cardona
Alex Kaufman
Andrew Self
Chris Hayes
Karla Burnett
Cameron Palmer
Sabrina Martielli
Jason Panzarino
Kirsten Fogarty

Big:

Krissie Shutt
Lindsay Webber
Melissa Connell
Michaela Gross
Monique Kerstein
Nina Robinson
Nirvana Bissessar
Ralph Razon
Richa Vijayvargiya
Rob Klaasen
Rory Cartelli
Shayna Teijido
Theron Gray
Alisha Feldman
Jerome Graham
John Coop
Lindsay Webber

Little:

Sarah Rashid
Christian Klepper
Esther Dasombae
Crystal Zipperer
Beth McGovern
Tracy Dash
Allie Ames
Raed Narvel
Sarah Cannington
John Thibeault
Carly Herr
Melissa Fuls
Sasha Allen
Sara Kaner
Zach Light
Lauren Krebs
Sheri Haker

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Region Four Invited to UF for Inter-Chapter Weekend

Attendees will join in the World's Largest Water Balloon Fight Against Breast Cancer

By: Ryan Arens

140,000 balloons. 5,000 participants. One goal: to make breast cancer history.

The service project for Tau chapter's second annual Inter-Chapter Weekend will involve supporting and participating in the World's Largest Water Balloon Fight Against Breast Cancer on Feb. 27.

Alpha Phi Omega will be running a game at the student organization carnival during the event. Brothers will also help by collecting donations

for the American Cancer Society from participants at the event. Event organizers are hoping to raise \$5,000 for the North Central Florida chapter of the American Society. The money will be used locally to help pay for mammograms for women who do not have health insurance or the means to afford the procedure.

However, the event will not be all work – all of the volunteers will also be participating in the actual water balloon fight. Every person will be needed as UF students attempt to claim the title

under the eyes of an official adjudicator from Guinness World Records.

Aside from service, brothers will also have the opportunity to participate in LAUNCH – the first program in the APO LEADS series, the interactive leadership development program of Alpha Phi Omega.

At the completion of the LEADS series of courses, the participant will have a set of transferable skills that are applicable to Alpha Phi Omega, to the working world, as well as to leadership in other organizations.

Spring Rush Events Bring Out 88

By: Stefani Pila

The first weeks of a new semester mean new classes, new goals, and new beginnings. For the brothers of the Tau chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, this time means new pledges!

According to Membership Vice President Christy Collins, we had 88 individuals attend the information meetings, service events, and fellowship get-togethers and were able to invite 61 of these rushes to the second week.

The Tau Chapter Times caught up with Patrick Flanagan, pledgmaster, to get his take on this semester's rush.

What was your favorite part of rush?

My favorite is coming up with questions for Speed Dating. Forget "What's your major?" It seems like all I hear is

"What year are you? How long have you been in the fraternity?"

So I ask questions that truly get to the core of a person. "The Dark Knight, or Avatar?" "Characterize your relationship with your parents." Or perhaps, "How the heck do you remember my name? We met once, and now I feel awful for forgetting yours."

What challenges did you face?

Rush is always a crazy time. People's faces begin to blend together, and you must constantly remind yourself not to spill the beans about our secrets. But this semester, thanks to the heroic efforts of our MVP Christy, these two weeks have gone phenomenally well.

How effective was our chapter in getting the word out about Spring Rush?

Emily Sasser's PR campaign had us

out on the prowl with stacks of flyers for days. Jamie Gray's big green Rush signs catch the eyes of passersby. But it seems that the most effective way to attract Rushes is word of mouth. There's nothing like seeing an excited brother talk about our unparalleled service program to get somebody interested.

Any final thoughts?

It takes a hundred hands and hearts to make a good Rush. Publicizing, coming out to events, keeping track of attendance: it's all draining to our stamina and probably to our grades.

But nothing compares to that moment, at 2:30 in the morning, when you show up at that door with a bid in your hand and see a smile spread across the face of your newest brother. That smile is worth every minute.

LambdaSpeaks

Why did you decide to rush Alpha Phi Omega?



Chris Hayes
"Trying to become a better, more well-rounded person. I want to move beyond academics."



Jason Panzarino
"I want to do more community service and I know it'd be more fun with a group of friends."



Nicole Shaw
"I just transferred to UF and I wanted to get involved in something... I liked what I saw here."



Karla Burnett
"I want to do community service while getting to know awesome people at the same time."



John Thibeault
"Greg told me that it's based on scouting, service and friends. What else do you need?"



Erika Johnson
"The Wildcats told me to. Plus, it seems like a fun way to do service!"

Strangest litter competition highlights cleanup effort

CLEANUP, from Page 1

Klaasen and Matt Martin, showed their spirit by climbing into trash bags and throwing cups at their audience.

Participants collected an entire table worth of weird things, including a Chik Fil A cow, a football-shaped beanbag chair, rusty cabinet drawers, a scepter topped with a flower made out of a RedBull can, and a photograph of a Guido.

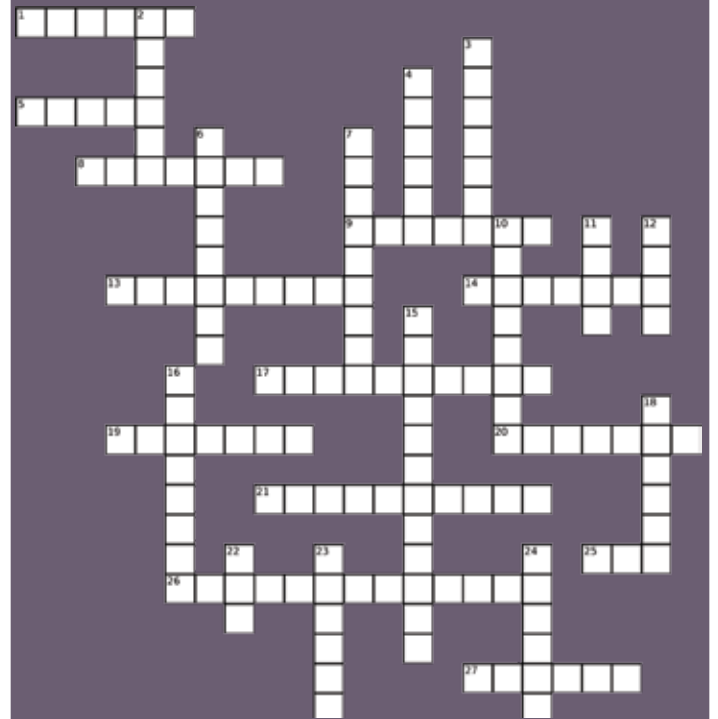
After a tough call, Team Domination won the prize for the strangest object. The winners of the cleanup, The Garbage Guzzlerz, picked up five bags full of trash in an hour and a half. The other creative team names included "The Boom Crue"(comprised of Cannons), "Cap'n Planet," "Something Penguin," and the "Sassquatches"(led by Emily Sasser).



photos/Lindsay Webber



Tau Chapter Crossword



By: Alex Harding

- | Across | Down |
|---|---|
| 1 APO's favorite night spot to take over | 2 The new booth chair |
| 5 Our chapters smallest family | 3 The 20th letter of the Greek Alphabet |
| 8 APO's stone | 4 Which hall near the Information Booth is the 5th oldest on campus |
| 9 Where are nationals being held this year | 6 Rush APO to expand your _____ |
| 13 Our other color | 7 Where was APO founded |
| 14 Our third cardinal principle | 10 Banquest this semester is going to be themed after the 19 _____ |
| 17 Our seconds cardinal principle | 11 Word used to self describe the EK pledge class |
| 19 Which country is commonly believed to be Dr. Doug's favorite | 12 Frank _____ Horton |
| 20 Name of the Seargent at arms during Spring 2010 | 15 One of our colors |
| 21 Our first cardinal principle | 16 Our beloved pink mascot's last name |
| 25 What is the shorthand name of the building chapter is in this semester | 18 Maggie Katz is our first _____ national president |
| 26 The traditional greeting started by Andy Grayson in 1972 | 22 APO's tree |
| 27 How many tenants are in the Scout Law | 23 ELam's mascot is this character |
| | 24 Alex Taylor's nickname |