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Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

Do the big
search
engines hold
your info?
Pg. 2

G

Re-imagine
how you
get hunted,
Pg. 5



More
trouble
for UF,
Pg. 6



College orientation becoming more than a chore

By Bonnie Miller Rubin
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — A generation ago, college orientation was a perfunctory affair, lasting little more than a day. The focus was on registering for classes and buying textbooks. If parents were needed at all, it was primarily for their wallets.

Now, universities are putting more emphasis on this annual ritual than ever before, hoping that time and energy expended during the summer will boost student success and avert problems during the school year.

At the University of Massachusetts Amherst, for example, orientation lasts 2 days and includes a separate program for parents. DePaul University also has beefed up its sessions, with an overnight stay to help establish a sense of community right from the start. Two years ago, the University of Minnesota tacked on a "Welcome Week" for freshmen on top of the traditional midsummer confab.

The expansion is needed, say administrators, to address a range of topics that didn't exist or weren't discussed much a decade ago: illegal downloads, sexting, plagiarism, credit card abuse, along with more concern about alcoholism, eating disorders and other mental health issues.

Rolling out the welcome mat also builds a relationship with Mom and Dad, who have been much more involved in their kids' lives than previous generations.

"We recognize that the issues of transition are much greater than just academics," said Jennifer Weed, DePaul's associate director for new student programs.

But all the front-end investment has a bottom-line payoff as well. Some schools lose as much as 40 percent of incoming freshmen, said the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. It's more cost-effective to spend resources on retaining current students than on recruiting new ones.



William DeShazer, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus

Mary Arendt and her parents Todd and Sherri Arendt pick up information during freshman orientation at DePaul University, July 8, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois.

"If you hurry through this, what happens when students have their first crisis? They quit ... they transfer," said Dan Saracino, the University of Notre Dame's recently retired admissions di-

rector. "To spend an extra day to improve the likelihood of staying is just good business."

— MCT Campus

OUR VOICE

If you did it, Google will find it

Three people can keep a secret if two of them are dead and the other isn't Google. The powerhouse Internet search company has advanced themselves into almost everybody's daily routines and personal lives. Nothing is out of grasp for Google; if you'd searched it, they know it. If you edited it, they know it. If you've listened to it, they know it. If you've blogged it, they know it. Google simply knows everything about everyone.

Google is the big brother company to other popular companies: YouTube, Blogger and Picasa. To explain that Google knows way too much about people let's give an example; cell phones "with Google" allow you to link your contacts with facebook, they also bring up your most recently searched item, does not matter what computer you've done it from. Best bet is that Google now has stored all your contacts and any other information in your cell phone.

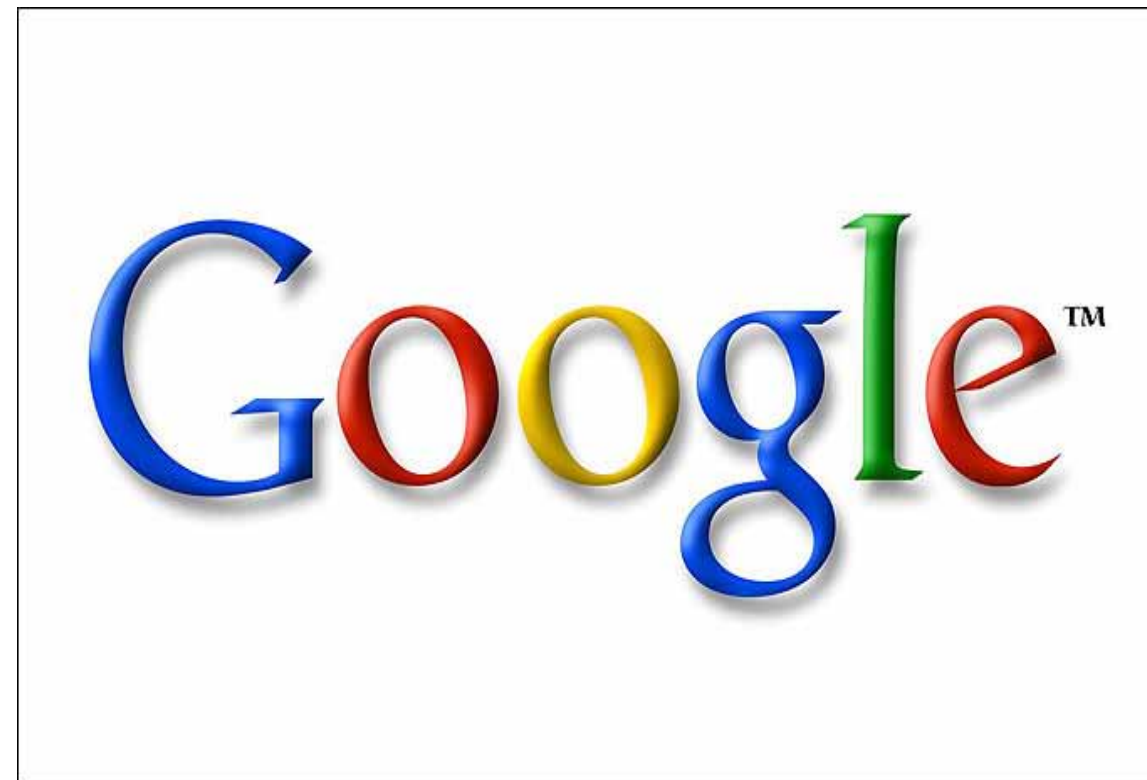
Although using awesome features and applications on a cell phone is a lot of fun, you never really know what you're getting yourself into with this secret saving Google.

What happens when your specific name is Googled? Well, someone could easily write a brief biography as though they personally know you. When your name is Googled you can find any web-

site mentioning your name, whether it be an organization you participate with, social networking websites you are involved in or personal websites. Photographs of yourself may even appear.

grandmother knowing, or writing something you wouldn't want your future employer reading, think about how Google has filed your information.

But is this necessarily Google's fault?



Furthermore, you can learn more information by adding your middle name, city and or state. After searching your name you would be stunned to find what has appeared.

Google knows. Google brings everything to light. Before you go searching something you wouldn't want your

It is, after all, just doing its job. It was made to scour the internet to find related items to your search, and it will only find things that you yourself decided to publish on the internet, where anyone who wanted could see it regardless of using Google if they felt like doing some digging.

Possibly the issue here is that we as a society care about ourselves and our security, but only to an extent that is convenient. We publish information that we shouldn't, click on internet sites we don't know, and tell the world who we happen to be in a relationship with on Facebook.

To say that this program doing its job is in the wrong here may not be a correct judgement, the program does what it was created to do, and it does it well.

Possibly, the problem with Google is that it generates too much personal information. Maybe the creators need to tweak it to show only broader results, but whenever you search the first things that normally come up are Wiki pages and official sites. It isn't until page seven or eight out of hundreds that the really secretive stuff begins to come out; and if you're digging that deep, it's for a reason.

Still, many sites like blogger.com actually ask you in the preferences if you want what you blog about to be searchable on the web. It comes down to a simple solution: if you don't want to be found, keep your info private and well hidden from the prying eyes of the internet prowlers. Also, know your privacy rights that each site on the internet provides to you, and if they aren't up to your standards, don't sign up.

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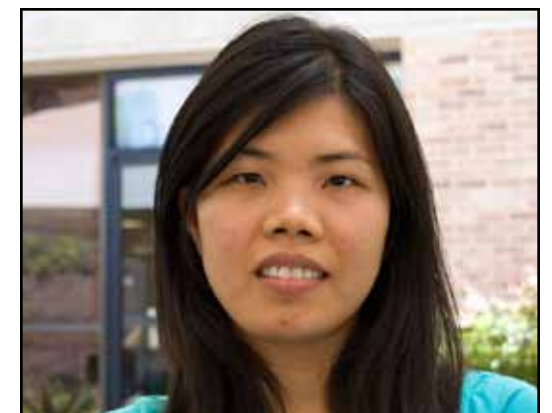
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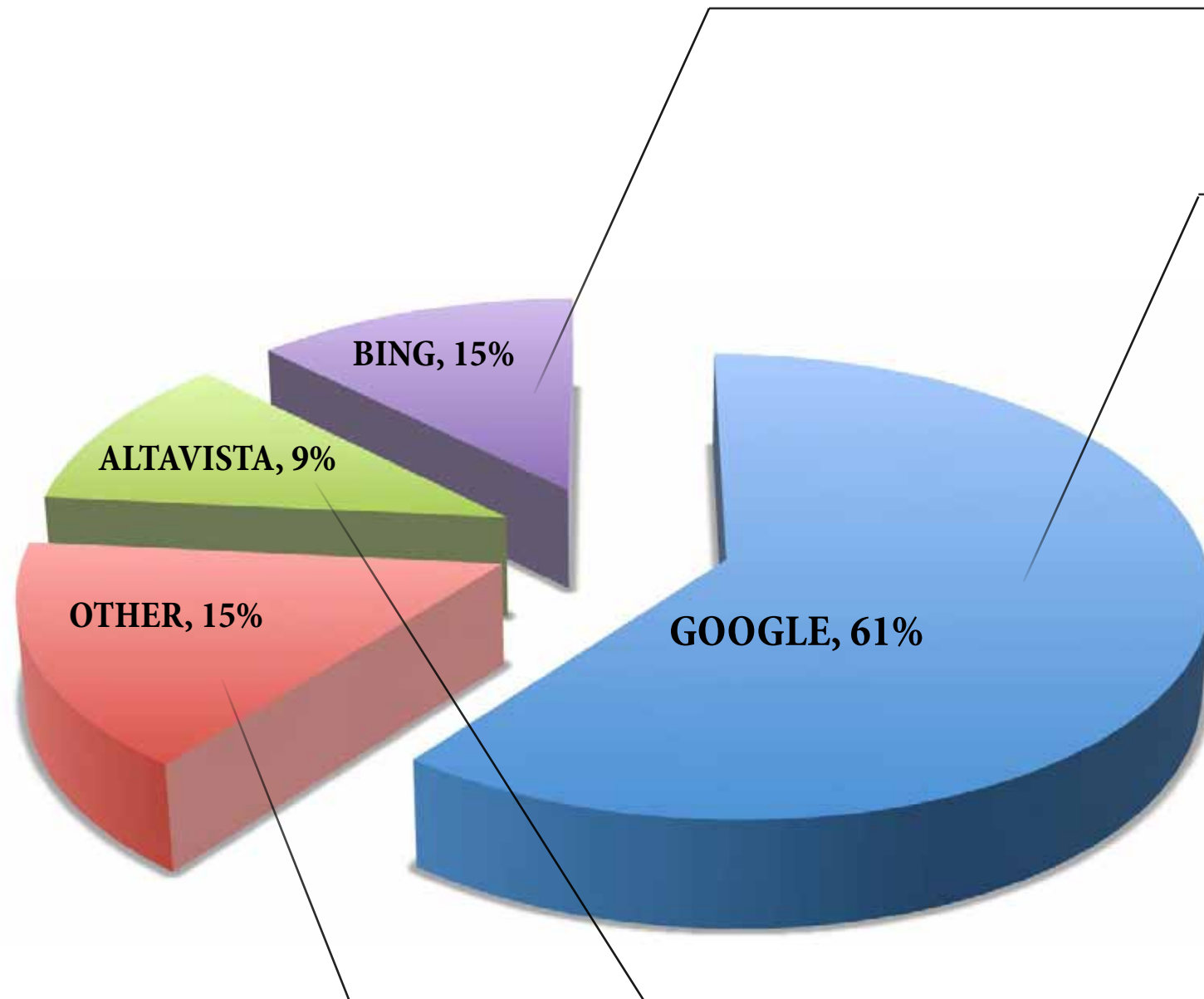
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Pop singer turns Greek goddess

Kylie Minogue returns with a great sound, soul, and exuberance in her new album 'Aphrodite'

By Jolene Krause
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Kylie Minogue's newly released album from Parlophone and eleventh studio released album "Aphrodite" is perfectly defined by the title.

As Aphrodite is the Greek goddess of love, beauty and sexuality, Minogue's album is all about the love, beauty and sexuality of relationships. "Aphrodite" debuted at number one in The United Kingdom. It's a great "pick me up" album for the summer season and combines fun electropop songs with psychedelic and groovy instrumentals in the background.

The first release off the album, "All the Lovers," gives listeners an exact idea of what is in store for the whole album; lyrics about dance, love and having an all around good time is precisely what this album and summer is all about.

Minogue seemingly never misses a beat in the music industry and her career proves

that astonishing feat. The album lacks any slow lovey-dovey sappy ballads and the only song that falls between the cracks is 'Cupid Boy,' mostly because the techno trance is overwhelming in her voice. One track, 'Illusion,' is a song all girls across the spectrum can relate to. "I'm surrounded by



confusion and lost in the illusion," these lyrics connect with girls who pull a shiny mirage over what is truly going on in their relationship or the guy they are in pursuit of.

Another great track on the album, 'Too Much' is a great

catchy love song about not letting love disappear; "When you read my body, can you touch my mind? Will we make it happen, each and every time." As always, Minogue is our modern day Aphrodite and brings her beauty into her music.

Others had commentary as well on the album. Allison Stewart from The Washington Post had this to say in her July 6 article: "'Aphrodite' is a better-than-average entry in the Minogue canon, though it varies little in either texture or tone from what has become a well-thumbed formula: lots of strikingly good, and strikingly similar, glitzy Euro-pop numbers, this time girded by an army of puffed-out synths and undercut by the occasional obligatory ballad, and all sung in Minogue's gossamer-thin coo."

To find out more about the album or to purchase it visit Minogue's website at www.kylie.com, or check out other music specialty retail websites.



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After many recent miscues, 'Predators' gets something right

By Jonathan Terbeche
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When the first original 'Predator' film was released in 1987, its combination of horror and intense action created a legion of fans that were very dedicated and helped launch Arnold Schwarzenegger's career as a action movies' quintessential big-screen bad-ass. Of course the Predator itself provided a unique sci-fi twist that would remain a staple of the franchise throughout its long history.

In 1990 'Predator 2' advanced the fiction's timeline to 1997 for a pseudo-futuristic setting starring Danny Glover. Unfortunately it failed to recapture the same magic of the original and stalled the franchise for an-

other 14 years. This is when the 'Alien vs. Predator' spin-offs entered the big screen. It was clear the creators were trying to reach a new audience with its new direction, new aesthetic, and over-the-top almost cartoony design. Though this was a revival of the franchise, it only disappointed fans more as they had yet to receive their true sequel after almost two decades. Well thanks to the creative mind of Robert Rodriguez, 'Predators' is that sequel.

Directed by Nimrod Antal, 'Predators' ignores the last two alien mash-ups and uses the design and tone of the original movies. Set on one of the predator's alien game reserve worlds, a group of deadly mercenaries and convicts led by Royce, played by Adrian Brody, have been taken there to be hunted and must fight to survive. It's immediately recognizable to fans of the first film with its jungle setting, and its cast of hardcore Earth warriors intent on survival and revenge.

This is the first film in the franchise that explores more of the predator mythos, introducing a hierarchy within the predator tribes, where some of the older, more seasoned predators hunt the predators we've come to know and love/fear. That means the hardcore, death-machine, kill-'em-first-ask-questions-later predators of the originals were the lowest of the pyramid. And these new predators have some slick new tricks to boot.

As the cast of survivors continue on, numbers dwindling of course, they are forced to deal with traps, both lethal and sinister, and predator dogs, which are just as cool and dangerous as they sound. They eventually meet an American soldier named Noland, played by Laurence Fishburne, who had been left on the planet years ago and survived by hiding in an alien drilling site. He reveals that they had not been the first to be brought there. In fact humans have been hunted on the planet for years.

The revelation of new predator tribes, a long history of abducted human prey, and numerous hunting planets leave the window open for so many more sequels, prequels, or side-stories. While memories of the 'Alien vs. Predator' series rear their ugly heads, the prospect of a returning predator film done in the same light as this one isn't such a bad thing, especially seeing as how entertaining this film was.

While the film certainly has its flaws, some less-than-great dialogue, and still slightly over-the-top silly action, it is still an enjoyable throw back to fans of thrill ride movies, sci-fi movies, or those long-waiting predator fans. In almost every respect, it delivers as best as a movie of this caliber can, trying desperately to erase the bad taste still lingering in fans' of the franchise's mouths.



Rico Torres, C/O 20th Century Fox, MCT Campus
Adrian Brody leads a merc band into battle.



Rico Torres, C/O 20th Century Fox, MCT Campus
Fishburne plays the last human left from the original attack.

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Despicable, but oh so dutifully delightful

By Daniel Asparouhov
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Directed by Pierre Coffin and Chris Renaud, based on Sergio Pablo's writing, 'Despicable Me' is an interesting story about an evil and mischievous criminal mastermind named Gru, his big plan, and three little girls. Gru's mojo is gone and to get it back the villain, voiced by Steve Carell, has to pull off the biggest heist in the world that people will talk about for years to come. What better evil deed to do than to steal the moon? His problem is everything and anything will get in his way; including himself.

'Despicable Me' is a heart warming family oriented story that brings together European visuals in the drop of an American suburb. Gru has to overcome younger competition, get a loan from the Evil Bank (which is only interested in profit,) direct and control his little yellow minions, fight off his "dog" (which is more of an alien than a canine,) and take care of the three little girls he assumed custody of. Step by step

the three girls, each with their distinct personalities, change Gru and help evolve his character. His cold demeanor against the girls eventually turns into a warm and lovable manner that draws audiences and helps wrap up the movie quite well. His change climaxes in his change of heart and race back from cold dead space to the girl's ballet recital.

The movie is very entertaining and while it is a chil-

dren's movie, several scenes contain darker humor that will appease those of us who are not so pure at heart. Gru definitely presents a more mature side to 'Despicable Me' and allows the older audience members to connect. His inability to cope with children will ring true with many and at the same time bring laughter to parents who had it much easier than him. The heavy eastern European accent adds a layer of entertainment to Gru that cannot be simply put in words; his accent ties into the character and art style of the story and if it was an American accent the movie may not have been as good.

The mascots for the movie, Gru's yellow minions, could probably have another whole movie devoted to them if it really came down to it. These yellow capsule shaped little guys are so much fun that you want to hug them.

Sadness, happiness, and anger are all excellently represented by the music. The voice acting is also great. Aside from Gru, his mother's indifference is well exemplified through her grunts and quips, and his quirky and silly nemesis has his stereotype reinforced by his laughter and mannerism. The sound simply fits and the shark hitting its noise against the glass is just a treat added.

The story itself is what you would expect from such a movie. This isn't an earth shattering story with twists and turns, but a children's story with familiar and expected plot points. The characters conform to the known formula, the villains are exceptionally cheesy, and the woman in charge of the orphanage fits the role of the mean hag that antagonizes the girls.

The youngest girl is cute and lovable, the oldest is serious and grown up for her age, and the one in the middle is just plain silly; even with all the expected

turns and twists the story flows nicely. The audience just seems to cheer for the characters and expects the expected and still gets a tingle out of seeing it happen.

'Despicable Me' is an excellent piece of entertainment that should definitely be seen. The film is nothing out of the ordinary story-wise, but you still want

to see what happens next.

The visuals and sound are excellent and only add to the movie. Gru is a funny character that brings the movie to life. Steve Carell's voice acting brings out the best for his character. 'Despicable Me' is a recommended experience and an overall great movie.



C / O Disney Studios

Steve Carrell dons a foreign, evil villain accent to make audiences crack up in Disney's latest film, "Despicable Me."

NCAA Pounces on possible violation

By Jeremy Fowler
The Orlando Sentinel

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — As Florida investigates a potential rules violation involving former Gators star Maurkice Pouncey, it's uncertain what the next move will be.

So far, public responses have been minimal after an ESPN.com report surfaced Monday that Pouncey allegedly received \$100,000 from the associate of a sports agent a month before the 2009 season ended. An unnamed representative allegedly paid Pouncey between Florida's loss to Alabama in the Southeastern Conference championship game on Dec. 6 and the Sugar Bowl win over Cincinnati on Jan. 1, ESPN reports.

If the allegations stick, a whole line of questioning unfolds regarding sports agents, whether Florida must vacate its Sugar Bowl victory, if any other players received similar benefits and whether twin brother Mike Pouncey, who is a rising senior at Florida, was involved. There's currently no evidence suggesting any of that, and Florida Athletic Director Jeremy Foley indicates in a statement that there's no proof Pouncey taking money. "We were made aware of some information in early June that we reported to law enforcement and we then shared with the NCAA and the SEC," Florida Athletic Director Jeremy Foley said in a statement. "At this time we have no information that has indicated that there are any compliance issues for the University of Florida." Foley declined further comment.

The Orlando Sentinel left a message with UF compliance director Jamie McCloskey and Lisa Webster, the Pounceys' mother. After winning the 2009 Rimington Trophy given to the nation's best center, Pouncey left school a year early to become the 18th overall pick of the 2010 NFL draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was one of three Gators drafted in the first round and seven in the first three rounds, a school record. Mike, who stayed in school to improve his draft

stock, is expected to appear at Wednesday's Southeastern Conference Media Days session in Birmingham, Ala.

Pouncey's agent is Joel Segal, who also represents former USC running back Reggie Bush, the source of a lengthy NCAA investigation that resulted in a two-year bowl ban, four years probation and loss of scholarships after Bush received improper benefits.

Segal violated Florida state recruiting laws after sending money to a Florida State Seminoles football player in 1995. Segal also represents former Gators Riley Cooper and Percy Harvin. Sports agent tampering in college football has been highlighted in recent weeks after reported NCAA probes into North Carolina and South Carolina.

Long-time Florida fans know this trend is nothing new. In the late '90s, Tank Black allegedly paid several UF players before they left school.

Florida athlete agents laws are designed to protect schools from agents prematurely paying or contacting athletes. Violating those laws, including payment to an athlete before his eligibility expires, could result in a second-degree felony and a maximum of 15 years in prison for the agent. Also uncertain is whether or not an agent or representative recruited Pouncey while not registered in the state of Florida. The Sentinel left a message with the University Police Department, which is investigating the case. If Pouncey took money, Florida could be forced to vacate its 51-24 Sugar Bowl win over Cincinnati because Pouncey would have been an ineligible player. But Tim Tebow's brilliant performance against the Bearcats; including 533 total yards, a Bowl Championship Series bowl game record, would likely stand since Tebow wasn't directly involved in the allegations.

If Pouncey took money, it's uncertain whether he purchased anything for brother Mike with the money and whether that would be constituted as an improper benefit.

— MCT Campus



Gary W. Green, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

Maurkice Pouncey leads the Gators off the field after their stunning victory over LSU last season.

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