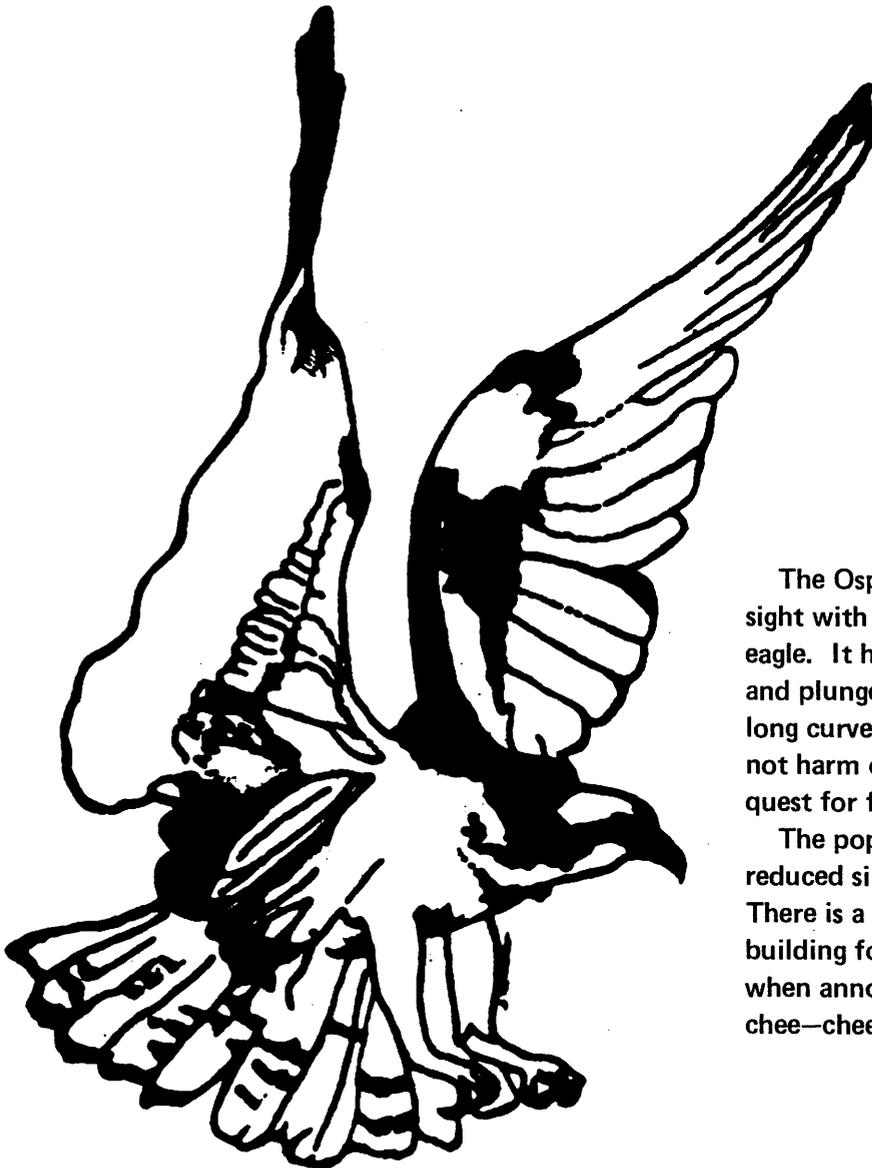


Write in the **OSPREY** for UNF Mascot



The Osprey or Fish Hawk is an impressive sight with wingspread nearly as great as an eagle. It hovers above the surface of water and plunges feet first to seize a live fish in its long curved talons. This gentle hawk does not harm other birds and intently pursues its quest for fish.

The population of Ospreys has been greatly reduced since 1950 due to the effects of DDT. There is a pair of nesting Ospreys just north of building four on the UNF campus. Their cry, when annoyed, is a piercing repetition, "chee-chee-chee".

An osprey from the ashes!

The selection of a mascot for the University of North Florida started innocently enough.

Although UNF opened its doors for students in 1972, the need for an "official mascot" was unnecessary because UNF did not compete in intercollegiate athletics.

Dorreen Daly, currently executive assistant the UNF vice president for student affairs, admits she may have supplied the impetus in October 1978 that set in motion a series of events which ultimately led to UNF's selection of an "official mascot."

As editor of the UNF alumni newsletter in the UNF Office of Public Relations, Ms. Daly recalls that she was searching for art work to accompany a story about how, after just six years, UNF had more alumni in the Jacksonville-Duval County area than Florida State University or Jacksonville University. At that time, in October 1978, UNF trailed only the University of Florida in the number of alumni in the Jacksonville-Duval County area.

Each university was represented by a cartoon character of its official mascot—the 'gator for UF, the Seminole for FSU and the dolphin for JU."

Recalling that a "tongue-in-cheek" letter-to-the-editor campaign between Dr. Bill Caldwell, of member of the faculty of the College of Education, and Dr. Ray Bowman, a member of the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, had graced the pages of the student newspaper only several months before, she decided to represent UNF as an armadillo. Caldwell had championed the cause of the armadillo and Bowman had championed the cause of the manatee.

"I knew it would start a controversy, but we hadn't had any controversy in a long time, and I decided to go ahead," says Ms. Daly, still betraying a devilish glee in her eye more than a decade after-the-fact.

Soon, UNF was embroiled in a full-blown controversy. Thus, in late 1978 and early 1979 UNF was propelled into the "battle of the creatures," as it became known.

Even though the major contenders were the armadillo and the manatee, lesser challengers--sharks, mariners, tadpoles, coots, pine cones and flashers--vied for attention.

By April 1979, the news media of Jacksonville (obviously desperate for news!) had joined in the controversy.

The local newspaper carried —an editorial commending UNF on its adoption of the armadillo as its "official" mascot,

—stories on its sports pages mentioning UNF's newfound "mascot" and

—an article on UNF's "fight song."

"Reaction to the armadillo was immediate and emphatic!" recalls Henry A. Newman, former UNF director of public relations and author of the fight song. "I never realized there were so many manatee devotees."

As an addendum to its spring 1979 election ballot, the UNF Student Government Association conducted a referendum for selection of an official mascot. By this time, the sea gull had become a contender, along with the manatee and the armadillo.

"I cringed at the thought of a sea gull being our mascot," recalls Bowman. "Just think of how many sea gulls fly over garbage dumps and landfills. They're filthy birds!"

After conducting some preliminary research and talking to colleagues, Bowman decided the osprey would make a better mascot than any of the three proposed, and conducted a one-man campaign for the osprey as UNF's official mascot. Bowman spent his own money to print fliers and placards touting the virtues of the osprey.

As a write-in vote, the osprey garnered 47 percent of the vote over the sea gull, the armadillo, the manatee and a host of challengers. And, in a follow-up election, the osprey won in a landslide vote.

Thus, the osprey was "hatched" as UNF's official mascot.

--Gary Warner

Alumni ACCENT
April, 1991

Correction: Dr. Bill Caldwell was at the time Chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Letters:

Editor:

A Manatee? Piffle!

For years I thought a Manatee was a shotgun start for an eighteen person golf tournament. But it isn't. It's a — mammal! A big, fat, wet, yucky mammal.

But don't look for its legs. They're hidden. In fact, that's where the nickname 'patella corpusola' comes from.

Manatees have chubby knees.

Olli Damra

Editor:

Have you ever seen a dead manatee on the side of the road? No? Well, that proves manatees are smarter than armadillos!

Early explorers of the American coast reported actually sighting real mermaids. Do you know what they saw? The lovely manatee. Obviously chubby knees can be quite appealing.

They say an alligator can outrun a man for a distance of 50 feet. Did you know a manatee can outthink a man for 50 seconds?

As a mascot for a "low profile" university, I suggest the manatee is much less visible than the armadillo. And like most of us here at UNF, the manatee struggles to keep its head above water.

Beware the armadillo! He has shifty eyes and a simple plan: to take over all of Florida today and who knows what tomorrow.

Support the manatee. She lives simply, eating nuisance hyacinths, converting them to usable nutrients for shrimp and catfish.

Let the cry of the manatee echo through our halls and resound across the palmettos back to the estuary itself.....huhhhhhhhhhhh!

E.E. Tanam

Bill Caldwell wrote in support of the armadillo under the nom de plume *Olli Damra*. Ray Bowman championed the manatee as *e. e. tanam*. Their choices of mascot candidates were intended as a mild spoof of UNF's founding president, Thomas Carpenter, who was a supreme diplomat and master of delicate situations. One of his announced techniques was to maintain a low (albeit effective) profile.

OPINION

\$20 prize for sketch

By LEE COOLEY

Dr. William Caldwell, head of the University of North Florida's mathematical, science department, has announced a \$20 reward for the best-drawn proposed UNF mascot, the armadillo.

The offer counters those made earlier by Ray Bowman, assistant professor of natural sciences and Alan Winter, a lab technician, for a suitable drawing of their proposed school mascot, the manatee.

Bowman, who would like to see entrants draw the manatee "with tusks, and growling," said that what started out as a joke has turned into an intramural issue.

"This armadillo thing has gotten out of hand," he said. "What we really need is a solid mascot, like a manatee."

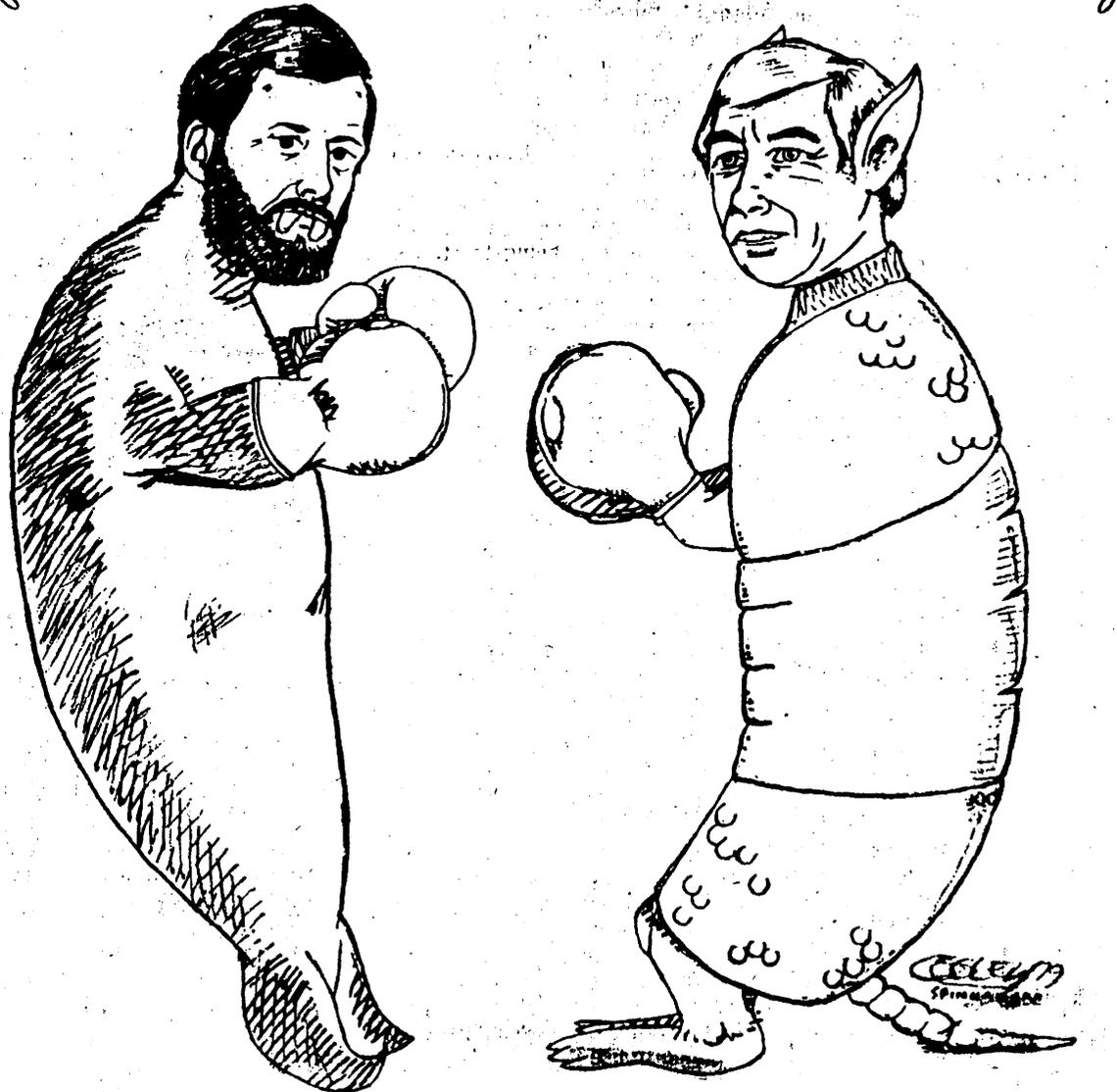
During UNF's last May Day Celebration, it was the natural

science department's "Fightin' Manatees" who clenched the over-all team campus championship. Both Bowman and Winter regard this win as definite proof of the creature's solidarity.

On behalf of the armadillo candidate, Olli Damra, Caldwell said, "The 'newly-adopted' mascot, the armadillo, is proud to have been the 'popular student choice,' but he is tired now and wants to go back to the forest to sleep and root." He also made note of Damra's campaign criticism, "Manatees have chubby knees!"

All prospective artists should present their entries to the individual departments. The Spinnaker would appreciate the contestants using bold ink or marker on white paper so that the winner's work may be clearly printed in a later issue. Deadline is Feb. 12.

MATCH OF THE MASCOTS

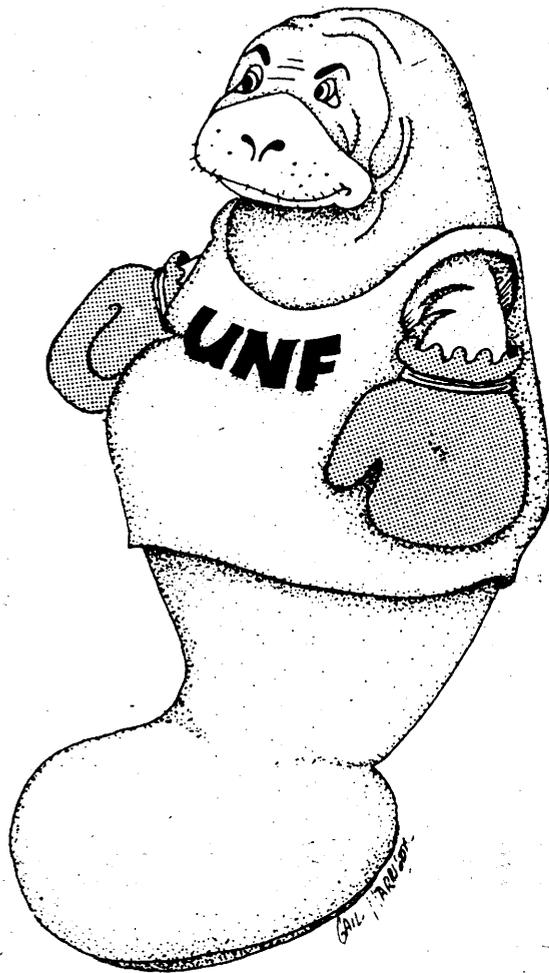


E. E. Tanam

versus

Olli Damra

Mascot contest winner chosen



The winner

The informal University of North Florida mascot drawing contest has come to a close with artist Gail Harrison receiving \$20.

Ray Bowmar, assistant professor of the natural science department, in collaboration with E. E. Tanam, chose Gail Harrison's manatee drawing as the best entry.



The loser

— Letters —

ly called the gull because the word gull means "sea bird". This vague description applies well to this bird because of the many nondescript varieties found throughout the world.

Gulls are common scavengers wherever there is water, fresh or saline. Like its land based counterpart, the rat, the gull frequently congregates around human dumps and sanitary(?) landfills. When easy food is hard to find, gulls are known to rob the nests of other birds for their eggs. For the gull, I have little respect.

There is another bird, quite common to Florida, for which I have much admiration. The king of the skies over the sea is the OSPREY.

The Osprey, or fish hawk, is an impressive sight with wingspread nearly as great as an eagle's. It hovers above the surface water then plunges feet first to seize a live fish in its long curved talons. This gentle hawk does not harm other birds and intently pursues its quest for fish. The population of ospreys has been greatly reduced since 1950 due to the effects of DDT. I hear there is a pair of nesting ospreys just north of building 004 on the UNF campus. Their cry when annoyed is a piercing repetitious, chee-chee-chee.

If I were a bonafied member of the UNF community, I would much prefer the osprey as a mascot for it symbolizes poise, skill, ferocity and beauty. The gull symbolizes commonality, bad taste, laziness and filth.

I throw my support to the osprey. Manatee lovers and lovers of beauty, vote for the OSPREY!

Tanum gives osprey support

Editor:

It seems obvious to me that some people at UNF don't really know much about the birds that live near the sea. Since I live in it and under it (humbly), I would like to make the following humble observations.

The "Seagull" is more proper-

E. E. TANAM

Osprey - 47%, Gulls - 32%!



— photo by Laird

By SANDRA BRINSON

The osprey is the current leader in the candidacy for mascot.

The Student Government Association passed a recommendation that the issue of choosing a mascot be put on the ballot during SGA elections on April 16 and 17. There were 10 candidates to choose from.

Out of those ten, the armadillo and seagull were pitted against each other in a run-off election held April 30 and May 1.

Meanwhile, a grass roots support had been building for a newcomer on the scene, the osprey.

Since write-in candidates were permitted on the ballot, the results of the run-off may result in yet another run-off. Osprey received 47 percent of the votes, seagull 32 percent and armadillo received 15 percent.

"What this means is that although the osprey got more votes, he did not clear a majority (50 percent)," said Denise DeLisle, SGA student events coordinator. "So the House gets it. If they don't accept the osprey at 47 percent, then we have to have a run-off between the osprey and the seagull." The issue went before the House May 3, after the Spinnaker deadline.

Since the original resolution said that a majority must be reached, those involved see trouble ahead.

"There was nothing in the resolution about what to do with write-ins," DeLisle said. "This same thing could keep happening again and again." One solution could be to not accept write-ins in run-off elections.

It is feared that if the House choose to accept the osprey with 47 percent of the vote then the seagull faction will become angered and protest.

"The election committee is out of it," DeLisle said, "We are not even giving a recommendation to the House. At this point we are just throwing up our hands."

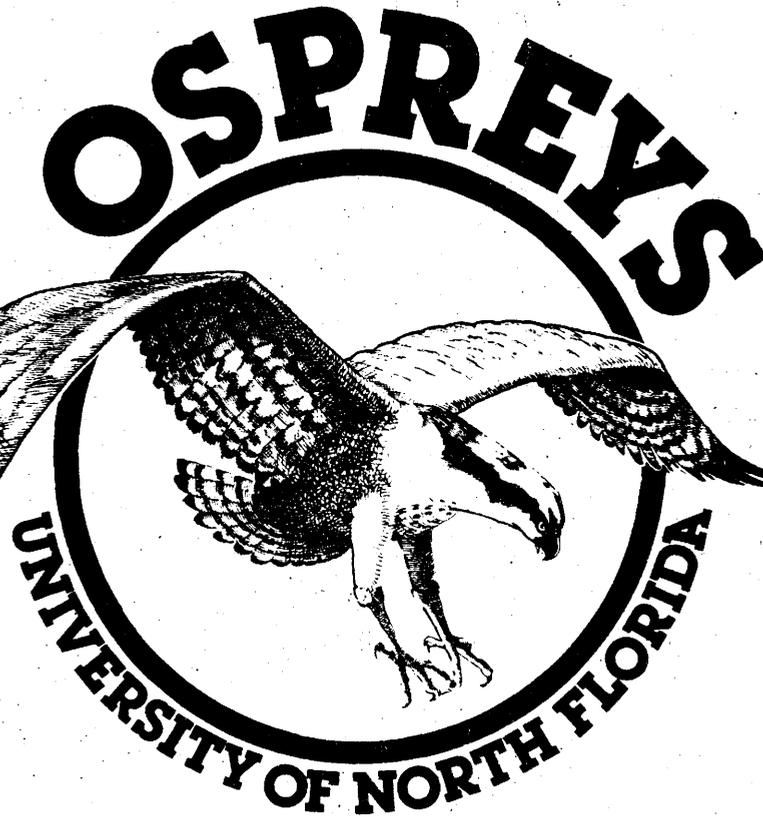
The eventual winner from these elections will be presented to UNF President Thomas G. Carpenter as the student choice. Any action taken on making the choice official will be up to him.

The seagull first received notice when Dr. Jay Hueber, associate professor of Natural Sciences, suggested it in a letter to the Spinnaker Jan. 15.

The osprey is being championed by Dr. Ray Bowman, assistant professor of Natural Sciences, along with other members of Sawmill Slough. Even E. E. Tanam, who was eliminated from the competition during the first election, has thrown his support over to the osprey.

Twenty-two write-in candidates were received in the run-off election. These ranged from animals such as panther, raccoon, falcon, gooney-bird and tasmanian devil, to a more civilized sector of society including Dr. Carpenter, B. T. Miller and "cars."

Whatever the decision of the May 3 House meeting, UNF stands to gain a bird as the student choice for mascot. Osprey or seagull. Which would you choose?



The new UNF Osprey logo, designed by Paul Ladnier, will have a cartoon companion, inset

left, designed by John Morrell for such things as bumper stickers.

'Mr. Osprey' wins write-in victory in UNF mascot race

By LEE STAPLETON
Times-Union Staff Writer

Most candidates just now are announcing their intentions of running for office, but Thursday, Mr. Osprey — the University of North Florida mascot — was inaugurated.

The race to win the mascot election last May was as hard-fought as a presidential campaign and caused about as much rhetoric.

In the true tradition of politics, it would have been unsafe to call the election until the last vote was in. Who would have thought a dark horse (or in this instance a dark bird) write-in candidate would win?

"It was a tough race. The competition were the nine-banded armadillo and the manatee," Ray Bowman, assistant professor of Natural Science and osprey campaign manager, said Thursday.

The other candidates had more than a year to win votes from students, faculty and alumni anxious for a mascot to represent the 9-year-old university.

"The seagull ran, but was eliminated in the election. He is a trash

bird that symbolizes commonality, bad taste, laziness and filth," said Bowman.

Bowman said the armadillo was a spoof suggestion some people took seriously.

"If the armadillo won, we were thinking of suggesting a yawn as the school cheer," Bowman said.

The manatee was a tougher candidate to beat. Bowman said the school was looking for an animal with a nautical tie-in.

"The school paper is the Spinner, and the faculty paper is the Mariner," he said.

The manatee is a sea cow that resembles a walrus mermaid. Bowman said manatee supporters argued it is rare to see a dead manatee on the side of the road, as opposed to an armadillo. They also argued the manatee keeps a low profile like the university he wanted to represent and he certainly fit in with an aquatic scheme.

"However, the manatee didn't seem quite right, so we came up with the osprey. He is a gentle hawk that doesn't hurt other birds, but is a pred-

ator that feeds on fish," Bowman said.

He said ospreys are an endangered species, but a pair of the birds lives on campus.

After some negotiating in smoke-filled back rooms, the manatee and armadillo coalitions, each realizing they couldn't win the election alone, joined forces and launched a "Write-in the Osprey campaign," hoping to defeat the seagull.

The osprey, in a glorious tribute to grass-roots campaigning, won 47 percent of the votes. Although not a clear majority, the student House of Representatives voted to honor the ballot, since the seagull (32 percent) and the armadillo (15 percent) conceded their defeat.

The osprey's main mascot duty will be cheering on the UNF soccer team. The UNF alumni association donated a \$3,000 athletic scholarship to commemorate the occasion.

Paul Ladnier, associate director of instructional communication, designed the osprey logo, since both of the campus ospreys are reluctant to make public appearances.