

## Editorial

# The Alligator to adjust circulation starting in August

**T**o our readers, who never go unappreciated: As I'm sure you're all aware, in life, change is inevitable. Every second of every day, our world is changing. The U.S., the state of Florida, the city of Gainesville and UF: all changing. For more than 100 years, we at the Independent Florida Alligator have prided ourselves in the strong connection we've made with the community by printing stories that you can pluck out of an orange box and hold in your hands on any given weekday in the Fall and Spring. Whether it's delivering breaking news or colorful feature stories, we have always been there for you. That is something that will not change and never will. However, the way that community members, UF students and faculty receive and read the news is changing, and we recognize this. The pace of our world continues to quicken, and the speed at which our community consumes news is increasing as well. To better accommodate your needs, dear reader, we must make some relatively dramatic changes. And so, although the Alligator will always deliver news to our readers when they need it most, we will only print our physical paper three times a week during the Fall and Spring semesters: Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

This change is not only an incentive for the Alligator to increase the amount of content we produce on our website and social media accounts, but it gives us the opportunity to improve the quality of content we physically print as well. Three days a week, our paper will be stuffed to the gills with the most entertaining, significant and critical news pertaining to our special community.

Starting at the end of August, we hope that our devoted readers will already be connected to our website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and mobile app. Not only will breaking news appear on the Alligator's social media pages faster than we ever have in the past, but we will be implementing an online newsletter that will deliver news in the fastest, simplest and most convenient fashion. Again, the content that the Alligator provides will not in any way decrease. It will increase, and it will improve. In a way, we've been presented with a blessing. In addition to incorporating more detail to stories that were perhaps restricted by limited spacing beforehand, we'll be able to focus on diversifying and improving our print publication's normal layout. To put it simply, every aspect of our paper will be kicked up a notch — and we hope that's something everyone can celebrate.

In the recent years, media practitioners have faced tumultuous times. Hopefully, dear readers, you've come to realize that journalism is not, in fact, dead. We very well may be basking in its golden age. But, as mentioned before, change is inevitable. As revenue from print advertising drops at an unprecedented rate, we must adjust, we must evolve, we must move forward. Decreasing revenue, especially for student-run college newspapers, is a problem that most publications in our country are actively searching for solutions to. Transitioning from five to three days a week in the Fall and Spring semesters is just our way of adjusting and improving, and we can't wait to take you all with us.

I, along with my colleagues at the Alligator — truly some of the most hardworking students at UF — feel enormously satisfied and proud to have had the opportunity to print a publication five times a week. Despite the decrease in our weekly print circulation, we will continue to operate as one of the best college newspapers in the country, and (always independently) we will continue to make you proud.

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## Column

# China can't understand the US 'white left'

**F**ormer President Barack Obama had high praise for many of the traditional adversaries of the U.S. during his eight years in office. From Cuba to Iran, Obama tried to mend past differences and bring former enemies to the negotiating table through generous rhetoric. Obama singled out one country above all others in his praise: China.

Obama marveled at Xi Jinping's rapid consolidation of power, at the Chinese infrastructure that dwarfed that of the U.S., at the Chinese ability to "build things," but he might have been surprised at how the Chinese people viewed him and his political beliefs.

It turns out that the Chinese astutely observed how the Obama administration's leftist policies made the U.S. take a step back on the world stage. They have almost no comprehension for the issues that most liberals believe are the most pressing, such as climate change, LGBTQ+ rights and open immigration, as their country places very little emphasis on these issues and holds very different views on how they should be handled. The Chinese believe that people so heavily focused on these values are the true threat to western hegemony.

They think the left benefitted, more than any global group, from the rising, post-World War II living standards. They understand that left-wingers have seen such a rise in their living standards compared to the rest of the world, and they simply cannot sympathize with the pressing issues that matter to other global citizens. For example, the left in the U.S. care deeply about LGBTQ+ rights and, even after legalizing gay marriage, continue to fight for privileges for members of this group. The Chinese, along with most other people around the world, are shocked by this, as they can barely deal with more pressing issues, such as feeding

their people. The rest of the world's inability to understand why the U.S.'s left has spent so much political capital for such a small percentage of the population evidences that the liberals in the U.S. are entirely out of touch with issues of global importance. The Chinese realize that spending time and resources on this issue will impact an infinitesimally smaller group of people than other "real" issues, like fighting terrorism or creating economic growth and thus see it as wasteful.

The Chinese view the "white left" (or "baizuo," a derogatory name for American liberals) as a real threat to western hegemony and see their political views as deeply hypocritical. The white left is seen to care about political correctness more than anything, even when it threatens their way of life, which is what the Chinese see as hypocritical. They see the white left prioritizing the feelings of their enemies above the feelings of their allies and themselves. They have watched countries in Europe cater to the rights of Islamic migrants and refugees and simultaneously watched these countries lose legitimacy (i.e., French police "no-go zones") and watched their cultures diluted to avoid incorrectness. They see these white leftists as being blind to the threat of radical Islam out of a misplaced sense of self-righteousness and know that if those policies persist, they will contribute to the demise of the West.

The white left in this country might be smart to reassess their views from the Chinese perspective. After all, can 1.3 billion people, so heavily praised by Obama, be wrong?

Jack Story is UF political science graduate. His column appears on Tuesdays.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Alligator.