

The Crimson White

Riley should be re-elected
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Celebrate Election Day with political films
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Men's basketball wins exhibition game
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Monday, November 6, 2006

Serving the University of Alabama since 1894

Vol. 113, Issue 51

Sorority accused of hazing

Ex-pledges say sorority leaders treated them poorly

By CHARITY SCOTT
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Four of six pledges of the multicultural sorority Alpha Delta Sigma quit the sorority because of behavior they described as hazing.

The ex-pledges said sorority leaders often yelled at them and treated them poorly, overloaded them with activities and gave them unreasonable deadlines, which hurt their grades. Sorority leaders deny all the charges.

"A few of the girls' grades plummeted, and some were

at the point where they were failing some classes," said Kala Dumas, a freshman majoring in telecommunication and film and one of the ex-pledges.

She said the drop in their grades was because their time was monopolized by the pledge process, which included attending sorority meetings, doing community service, spending time with their "big sisters" and organizing a fundraiser.

The girls earned points for the activities they completed and lost points if they did not participate. Liz Frenkel, vice president of expansion for the national sorority and one of the sorority's founders, said all the pledges had to earn an undisclosed number of points before

they were fully admitted.

"As with everything, they have to work towards gaining membership," Frenkel said.

Amanda Baker, the president of Alpha Delta Sigma, said the pledges were made aware of the requirements and deadlines before the process began.

"Our top priority is academics," Baker said. "We even require two study hall hours a week, which are set up according to their schedules to help them get their work done."

Dumas said those two hours were insufficient, and when the pledges told the sorority members this, promises were made but nothing was done.

On the first pledge retreat, Dumas said her ankle was

bitten by a spider and she was forced to wait six hours before she was allowed to leave. She said Baker made her and another pledge take down tents even though her ankle was swollen.

"I was having an allergic reaction," Dumas said. "And [Baker] put a Band-Aid on it."

Baker said she was under the impression that the bite came from an ant, by which she said other girls had also been bitten.

"We administered first-aid, and we ended up leaving a few hours early," Baker said. "We even called her later to make sure she got to the emergency room."

See **HAZING**, Page 2

UAPD: Most frats' incident rates go down

Three years of crime reports show low levels of crime

By CHRISTY CONNER
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During the past three years, the occasional burglary and episode of criminal mischief were the most reported crimes for all 26 of the University's fraternity houses, according to UA Police Department records.

Fraternities, for the most part, have had either a decrease in crime or little to no crime over the past three years. Only four fraternities had an increase in crime.

Sigma Phi Epsilon topped the list with the most crimes reported, totaling 16 over the past three years. Last semester, the fraternity

was charged with distributing marijuana inside the house. However, almost every other police report filed was regarding theft, criminal mischief and burglary, which members reported happening to them.

Others near the top of the list were Sigma Nu, Pi Kappa Alpha and Lambda Chi Alpha.

Alpha Kappa Lambda, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi and Tau Kappa Epsilon all reported no crime activity on their property within three years. However, Alpha Kappa Lambda does not own a house on campus property.

Todd Borst, director of greek affairs, said he thinks the reason crime in fraternity houses has decreased for the most part over a three-year period is because the

See **CRIME**, Page 2



CW/ T.G. Paschal

Thirteen-year-old Owen O'Neal and others run past Denny Chimes in Phi Sigma Pi's 5K run Sunday. Phi Sigma Pi, a co-ed honor fraternity, held the race to benefit Teach for America, which trains college graduates to teach in low-income communities.

A cause worth running for

No more smoking outside law school

Policy bans smoking within 25 feet of building

By LEAH TOLLISON
Contributing Writer

UA's law school has gone beyond UA policy on smoking to ban all smoking within 25 feet of all law school building entrances except one.

Senior Assistant Dean for Administration Noah Funderburg sent an e-mail to the students, faculty and staff of the UA School of Law on Oct. 26 that informed them of the new smoking policy for the building.

The one entrance exempted from the new policy is the west entrance that faces Coleman Coliseum. A small balcony off the Bounds Library has also been designated as a smoking area. A limited smoking area will eventually be established at the south end of the newly built café patio.

These restrictions add to the no-smoking policy inside all UA buildings that was implemented in 1991.

Funderburg cited information provided by the American Lung Association on the health hazards associated with smoking and second-hand smoke.

"The law school believes its students, staff and faculty, the majority of whom are non-smokers, have a right to enter and leave the building without being exposed to a harmful condition that can be controlled," Funderburg said in an e-mail. "The law school also acknowledges that those who choose to smoke should have some options, provided that those options are balanced against the needs of the majority of building occupants."

The law school's new policy came at the request of the Student Bar Association and several individual students and staff members, Funderburg said.

Many non-smoking students were supportive of the new policy.

"It's hard to contain cigarette smoke, so this is a good balance between people who

See **SMOKING**, Page 3

Beat Auburn Beat Hunger campaign helps food bank survive the holidays

Donated food benefits area residents

By MICHELLE TANNER
Contributing Writer

The Iron Bowl might still be a couple of weeks away, but beating Auburn has been on students' minds when it comes to the fight against hunger.

The 13th annual Beat Auburn Beat Hunger food drive, which will run through Nov. 18, is approaching its halfway mark. Each year, Alabama and Auburn compete to raise the most pounds of food to donate to the West Alabama Food Bank and the East Alabama Food Bank, respectively.

Craig Young, the executive

director of the West Alabama Food Bank, said the organization receives between 60,000 and 65,000 pounds of food from the University each year — food the bank depends on to fill its shelves during the holidays.

"It's very important," Young said. "If we didn't have it, we'd have half the amount of food we'd normally have to donate."

The food bank distributes 1.3 million pounds of food to local agencies and programs each year, averaging about 100,000 pounds per month.

One of the main recipients of food from the food bank is Temporary Emergency Services, which uses it to feed 25 to 50 clients daily.

See **HUNGER**, Page 3



The Beat Auburn Beat Hunger campaign collects food for the West Alabama Food Bank.
CW/ T.G. Paschal

IN CAMPUS brief

To submit a brief, e-mail news@cw.ua.edu

CORRECTION

A student was identified by the wrong name in a stand-alone photo titled "Go long" on Page 1 of Friday's The Crimson White. The student in the photo is Jeffrey Knight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forum on safety tonight

The SGA is hosting the Tuscaloosa Leaders Forum on Safety tonight at 7 in the Ferguson Theater.

Guests include City Councilman Lee Garrison, Tuscaloosa Police Chief Ken Swindle, Tuscaloosa Fire Chief Alan Martin, UA Police Chief Steve Tucker, Sgt. Robert Barton and agent Brittney Battles of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

Beat Auburn Beat Hunger today

The Community Service Center is sponsoring a Beat Auburn Beat Hunger halfway party in the Ferguson Plaza today from noon to 2 p.m. Students are encouraged to bring non perishable food items to donate to the Beat Auburn Beat Hunger Food Fight.

For more information, call the Community Service Center at 348-2865.

Benefit auction tonight

The Black Warrior Review, a national literary magazine edited by graduate students of the creative writing program and English department, is having its annual benefit auction tonight at 7 at Little Willie's Jazz & Blues Club. Hundreds of community-donated goods and services will be available to the highest bidder, with all proceeds benefiting the magazine.

This year's auction has a Las Vegas "High Rollers" theme, and Elvis impersonator Chris Johnson will be performing.

WEATHER



Today
65°/55°
Rain likely and possibly a thunderstorm after noon.

Tuesday
66°/53°
60 percent chance of rain.

Wednesday
73°/53°
Partly cloudy.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I plan on violating it as much as possible. It seems if we're asked to stay 25 feet from the doors, we shouldn't have to stand in the wind or rain to have a cigarette."

— First-year UA law student Adan Valdez on the School of Law's policy that requires people who smoke to do so at least 25 feet away from the building. See "No more smoking outside law school," Page 1.

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UA students have SPIRIT

Campaign works for first-generation scholarships

By CHARITY SCOTT
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On Saturday, the SPIRIT Campaign, sponsored by the SGA and the advancement office, kicked off its second year of raising money for scholarships for first-generation college students.

R.B. Walker, chief of staff for the SGA, said 17 percent of UA students are the first in their families to go to college.

"It really says something about the University and the students here," Walker said. "We want to honor their drive to be a college-educated Alabamian."

The name of the initiative, SPIRIT, stands for Students Playing an Important Role In Tradition. The campaign, which was handed over to the SGA from the UA advancement office this semester, already had \$17,000 in its account, and SGA officials weren't sure where it came from. But the SGA wants to raise even more money.

Justice Smyth, SGA president, said the campaign's goal is \$35,000 and 100 percent student participation this year.

"We'd like everyone on campus to give at least a little bit," Smyth said. "This is students giving back to other students."

Students can donate by swiping their ACTION cards at booths located in the Ferguson Center and the Rec Center. Students can donate using Dining Dollars or Bama Cash.

Those interested in donating can also use their credit card online at spirit.ua.edu. Cash and checks are also accepted, Smyth said.

He said the SGA is asking for students to donate \$5 to the cause, but he added, "Students can donate as much or as little as they want to, as long as they donate something."

Last year, the SPIRIT campaign gave out 10 scholarships. Smyth said if they reach their goal, they could give out around 17.

"The more money we raise, the more people we'll be able to help," Smyth said.

Walker said the scholarship application will be written and evaluated by a selection committee headed by Chris Lambert, vice president of financial affairs for the SGA. He

added that selection would be based on scholarship, leadership and need.

Students interested in applying for the scholarship can do so online at either the SPIRIT campaign Web site or the SGA Web site, www.sga.ua.edu, when they become available.

Smyth said the campaign ends on Dec. 12, and the scholarship winners will be announced in April.

"We're a big community, a big family," Smyth said. "This is all about students working together to help each other."

Walker said the SGA is making the scholarship campaign one its priorities.

"We're really excited about it because it helps all students," Walker said. "We're going to put the entire weight of the SGA behind it."

CRIME

Continued from Page 1

University's greek organizations have three different sets of rules to follow. Each sorority and fraternity must not only follow the chapter rules, but they also abide by the rules and regulations of the city they reside in and rules implemented by the national organization, he said.

"I definitely think that these rules that are in place have kept them more grounded," Borst said.

He also emphasized that every organization must abide by the UA social event guidelines for any student social. For those who do not follow these guidelines, the Office of Student Judicial

Affairs determines the severity of the organization's punishment, categorizing it as one of four levels, he said.

"These organizations have been taught how to handle situations that might occur," Borst said. "It will never completely eliminate the chances of crime occurring, but these rules definitely help reduce these chances."

Car theft occurred at four of the fraternity houses, totaling \$37,000 worth of stolen vehicles. The most serious but most isolated crime reported was the attempted murder of a former Sigma Nu member.

Borst said he thinks the reason fraternities are automatically assumed

See CRIME, Page 5

Fraternities	Total crimes	Alcohol charges	Drug charges	Assault	Harassment	Criminal mischief	Theft	Burglary	Unlawful breaking and entering
Alpha Phi Omega	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alpha Phi Alpha	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alpha Tau Omega	6	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2
Beta Theta Phi	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Chi Phi	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delta Chi	9	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Delta Kappa Epsilon	5	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Delta Tau Delta	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Epsilon Alpha	8	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2
Epsilon Sigma Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	10	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	11	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Epsilon Sigma Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	6	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1
Epsilon Sigma Phi	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	9	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	11	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1
Epsilon Sigma Phi	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	9	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	3
Epsilon Sigma Phi	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	11	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	16	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Epsilon Sigma Phi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epsilon Sigma Phi	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Epsilon Sigma Phi	8	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0

Source: UAAPD crime reports
CBI graphic/ Zach Summers

HAZING

Continued from Page 1

Dumas said another problem the pledges had with the sorority was that they were constantly yelled at by the sorority's vice president, Elizabeth Carroll.

"She was the one that was with us most of the time, and I guess she went a little power crazy," Dumas said.

She said the problems that were building between some of the pledges and Carroll came to a head at the spaghetti dinner fundraiser in Rose Towers on Oct. 23.

"She was yelling and snapping at us and our boyfriends that came to help out," Dumas said.

Carroll, a senior majoring in music theory, said she did not yell at anyone during the fundraiser and was unaware that there was even a problem until after the dinner ended.

"The fundraiser was the responsibility of the pledges," Carroll said. "I was there to eat spaghetti." Carroll said she came early to help them cook the food because some of the girls were unable to come but said once the fundraiser started she wasn't involved.

"We don't haze," Carroll said. "No one ever has. No one ever will."

Frenkel said that a non-hazing clause is included in the sorority's constitution.

Dumas said despite these assertions, the girls who decided to de-pledge felt harassed and uncomfortable.

"[Carroll] didn't think that she was doing anything wrong," Dumas said. "Her excuse was always 'You're the pledges, you're supposed to try to impress us.'"

Dumas said she spoke with the president of the national chapter, Melody Twilley, who told her that there would be

repercussions against some of the sorority members.

Carroll said she spoke with Twilley several times since the pledges dropped line, and she never mentioned disciplining anyone. She added that no

charges had been filed with the Greek Life Office.

"We treat everyone with dignity and respect," Carroll said. "We'd still like to reconcile with the girls."

Todd Borst, director of greek

affairs at the Capstone, said he was unaware of any concerns from the ex-pledges.

"If something is going on with inappropriate conduct we will investigate it to the fullest," Borst said.

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TEACHER PROFILE

Far East meets Deep South in perfect union

By JARED CULVER
Contributing Writer

"All I knew about Alabama came from Forrest Gump."

For Xiang Zhang, a doctoral student and Chinese instructor, that statement summed up her familiarity with the state that was so far from her home in the Far East.

Zhang said she grew up in a self-described intellectual family from Changchun, China. Her parents were academics, and she said she grew up immersed in academia. Like many children, she wanted to break new ground separate from her parents' way of life. She said this wasn't easy because in China, as in many cultures, children generally are expected to follow in the footsteps of their parents.

"I had lived my whole life on a campus, and I decided I would never do that," she said.

She worked in the busi-

ness world and found success but not happiness.

"It was not fulfilling," she said. "I wanted to make a difference."

At a crossroads, Zhang decided to turn back to the field of her parents. Without much background knowledge of the area, no family or friends around and not much of a plan, Zhang said she took her first offer from the University and jumped in head first.

"I don't worry so much about things," she said. "If I am 70 percent sure I want to do something, I just do it and don't second guess myself."

She took some teasing from her friends. They too only knew of Alabama from pop culture stereotypes. One scene in Forrest Gump in which Forrest and his friend Bubba are said to talk like twins by Lt. Dan was particularly of interest with Zhang's friends, who laughingly told her that people

would confuse her with Latinos, blacks and natives of Asian countries other than China.

Her experience since coming to the South has been mixed, she said. Thankfully though, long past are the days of segregation and racism, she said. Zhang said she loves the South, her new friends and her students.

"Southerners are polite, kind and warm-hearted," she said. "I consider myself Alabamian. When I go to conferences in Washington, D.C., or California, I introduce myself saying I'm from Alabama."

Zhang also has fallen prey to that most seductive of Southern sirens, food. She said she loves learning the fine art of Southern cuisine. She said she even wants to go so far as to design a barbecue fragrance for women, because she loves the Southern delicacy so much.

"I love Southern food. I've been salsa dancing, lis-

tened to country music, pop music and my favorite food is barbecue," she said. "And I guarantee you that wouldn't happen anywhere else."

There have also been some negatives, but Zhang is unfazed. She had an incident at the post office where an employee laughed at her accent while she was trying to explain the situation regarding a lost item she was sending to her father for his birthday. But Zhang said she didn't let that affect her.

"I see myself as responsible to teach people how to treat me," she said. "I don't blame people. I try to be proactive."

She said she has experienced a varied life, but no matter what happens she said education is her passion and calling. She said she loves her students and hopes to make a difference in the world through educating the future generation.

Luke Skinner, a sopho-



CW/ T.G. Paschal

Xiang Zhang, a doctoral student and Chinese instructor came from Changchun, China, to teach in the United States at the University.

more majoring in English, said his class is very informative and enjoyable.

"For such a hard language, she keeps the classroom environment fun," he said.

INbrief

from wire reports ...

Saddam, 2 co-defendants sentenced to hang for Dujail killings

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Defiant, raging and arrogant to the end, Saddam Hussein trem-

bled and shouted "God is great" as he was sentenced to hang.

"Long live the people and death to their enemies. Long live the glorious nation, and death to its enemies!" Saddam cried out.

Then bailiffs took the arms of Iraq's once all-powerful leader, and the man the United States went to war to drive from power

walked steadily from the courtroom with a smirk on his face.

The hawk-faced chief judge, Raouf Abdul-Rahman, sentenced Saddam to the gallows Sunday for crimes against humanity, convicting the former dictator and six subordinates for a nearly quarter-century-old case of violent suppression in this land of long memories,

deep grudges and sectarian slaughter.

An around-the-clock curfew imposed before the verdict helped avert widespread bloodshed, but police said 72 people were killed or found dead nationwide by daybreak, and worries grew about what will happen when the curfew is lifted.

The former Iraqi dictator

and six subordinates were convicted and sentenced for the 1982 killings of 148 people in a single Shiite town after an attempt on his life there.

The nine-month trial had inflamed the nation, and three defense lawyers and a witness were murdered in the course of its 39 sessions.

With justice for Saddam's

crimes done, U.S.-backed Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki called for reconciliation and delivered the most eloquent speech of his five months in office.

"The verdict placed on the heads of the former regime does not represent a verdict for any one person. It is a verdict on a whole dark era that was unmatched in Iraq's history," al-Maliki said.

HUNGER

Continued from Page 1

"What we get from the food bank is of great importance," said Sharon Cosby, the case manager for Temporary Emergency Services. "And definitely at this time of year when our shelves need to be replenished."

In addition to the agencies that the food bank reaches, there are also a number of individuals who benefit from the donations through the "brown bag" program. Each month, the West Alabama

Food Bank delivers brown grocery bags of fruits, vegetables, canned meats and other foods to individuals who qualify based on their income.

Ann Seaman, a resident at Robertson Towers in Tuscaloosa, said she is especially grateful for the program. After having sudden brain surgery, Seaman, a single mother, was unable to work and thus had no income before she could get disability payments.

"It takes you at least six months to get on disability," Seaman said. "For a year I had no income."

Seaman said most of her fellow residents are living off less than \$500 every month, and after rent, phone and cable bills, not much is left for food. Because the program provides nutritious food and delivers it to the residents' doors, it really makes a big difference, Seaman said.

"You know it's going to be there," Seaman said. "The people here are thrilled to death to get a box of crackers, because it's one more dollar they don't have to spend."

As of Friday, the campaign had raised 36,001 pounds of food, while Auburn trails with

10,565 pounds. Freshman Forum took the lead with about 16,000 pounds donated, with SGA in second place at around 7,200 pounds donated. Though Alabama leads now, Beat Auburn Beat Hunger coordinator Sara Senicz warns that Auburn usually waits until the end of the competition to report a lot of their food.

"It really doesn't mean anything that we're beating Auburn right now," Senicz said.

Auburn has beaten Alabama in the drive eight out of the past 12 years — including

the past five competitions, according to Auburn's SGA Web site.

"If we continue to lose to Auburn, no one's going to support the drive anymore," Senicz said.

The Beat Auburn Beat Hunger Halfway Party will

take place today from noon to 2 p.m. in the Ferguson Plaza.

Senicz said she hopes the party will be a final push for the last 10 days of the drive.

"There's no question that Alabama students can beat Auburn students in the food drive," Seaman said.

SMOKING

Continued from Page 1

smoke and those who don't," said Holly Caraway, a first-year law student.

First-year student Tim McFalls said smokers never bothered him before the policy went into place, but the policy is a good one.

Funderburg said he had received several e-mails regarding the new policy, only one of which was a negative response.

"Imagine those in our building who smoke are unhappy that their choices are limited," Funderburg said. "I hope they would appreciate that in a collective community sacrifices

should be made by those engaging in an activity that is opposed by the majority and indeed has proven unhealthy to themselves and to others."

While students who smoke acknowledge the risks involved, many of them said they wish they had more designated smoking areas. The west entrance smoking area receives a fair amount of student traffic entering and exiting the building.

"I wish there were more alternative areas for smokers," said Scott Orrell, a first-year law student. "The new smoking areas are in front of doors. That kind of defeats the purpose of smokers staying away from entrances."

First-year student Adan

Valdez said the new policy is a good way to protect the health of other students but does not think the policy is fair for smokers.

"I plan on violating it as much as possible," Valdez said. "I used to stay away from the doors, but I don't mark off exactly 25 feet."

"It seems if we're asked to stay 25 feet from the doors, we shouldn't have to stand in the wind or rain to have a cigarette."

Orrell added that there are very few covered areas where students can smoke and avoid the elements at the same time.

"It would be nice to have some tables and chairs where we could sit and study and

enjoy a cigarette at the same time," Orrell said.

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Our View

Riley good pick for gov

After a vigorous campaign by incumbent Republican Gov. Bob Riley and Democratic candidate Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley, The Crimson White editorial board endorses Riley almost without reservation.

Riley has run one of the most impressive and cleanest administrations in Alabama gubernatorial history. Riley was the first governor in more than 30 years to receive a perfect audit by the Examiners of Public Accounts report, according to his Web site.

The state's economy is seeing some of its best days ever, as Riley has helped bring 75,000 new jobs since he took office. Combine that with a billion-dollar surplus in the state's coffers and Riley has helped the state achieve the "State of the Year" ranking for the past three years by the Southern Business and Development Magazine.

His commitment to education through the Alabama Reading Initiative and his effort in 2003 to pass Amendment 1 in an extremely anti-tax state show he is committed to moving this state's educational system out of the bottomless pit of 48th, 49th and 50th we've been trapped in for far too long.

While federal emergency agencies, governors and city leaders floundered in light of multiple tragic hurricane strikes, Riley handled the emergency situation splendidly by reversing Highway 65 quickly and rushing aid to the affected areas immediately after the storms passed.

Riley has laid out what he wants to do in the next four years in his Plan 2010—increase education funding, boost the economy and protect the environment.

His 49-page booklet makes bold and important promises to Alabamians that if implemented, could move this state completely into the 21st century.

Baxley, on the other hand, has failed to present her plans to Alabamians, instead using all her on-camera time to attack Riley's solid record.

She has been vague with descriptions on how she plans to do a better job than Riley, and her Web site includes a total of nine paragraphs that describe what she wants to do for Alabamians if elected.

Baxley has made one good point in her campaign about \$1.02 billion in contracts signed during the governor's administration that did not go through the competitive bidding process. If Riley is elected governor, he must put an end to this to fulfill promises he made to all Alabamians when he took office.

Despite this point, we think Riley is by far the best candidate for governor and should get your vote.

But, even if you do not share our view on who should lead the state of Alabama for the next four years, we still want — no, beg — you to go to the polls and vote Tuesday.

Your voice should count.

For purposes of full disclosure, opinions editor Jordan Pittman recused himself from the Our View because he is a volunteer for the Lucy Baxley campaign for governor.

Our View is the consensus of the CW editorial board.

Letter to the Editor

Politicians and America have lost focus

I love my country, but we have problems. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to do a little research that shows more than 30 percent of the voting public says they aren't going to vote and that their vote won't matter anyway.

Democrats and Republicans have major problems, but it's the campaigning that is getting ridiculous in my opinion. Assuming everyone knows about the respective parties they're interested in, whether it's based on religion, national defense, security or health care, I am going to share with you some numbers about America that show our country is way behind.

America ranks 48th in infant mortality rate, 55th in literacy, 44th in freedom of press and 72nd in overall health. America owes trillions to China and is indebted to Mexico of all countries. The only thing saving America is GDP per capita at number eight. America has done some great things in its history; examples include defeating Hitler, the Polio disease and inventing the light bulb.

To counter that, America hasn't finished tasks lately, either. That list includes fixing the voting machine problems since 2000, the FBI is just now getting e-mail and

America won't get the inevitable patents for stem-cell cures because Jesus says it's too close to cloning and we're falling behind to Brazil in alternative fuels.

What happened to America being the front runner of saving lives, doing good will?

This administration has suspended habeas corpus and invoked torture in prisons. America isn't on a bridge to the 21st century. America is on a bus to Atlantic City with a roll of quarters.

I love my country, but we're losing the moral high ground. The war in Iraq will never be over, because the people who could have become the true leaders have fled the country, are dead or have been raised to hate everything about us.

Forget this campaigning garbage; it's a waste of taxpayers' dollars. Everyone has forgotten about the issues and the numbers I have previously mentioned because it's clouded by Sen. John Kerry's misunderstanding. Bush's incompetence, gay rights and immigration issues.

We've all said things that have come out wrong. Bush isn't the most flamboyant communicator, either. Politicians need to get back on track about what made this country great. We're falling behind in many categories.

Nicholas Rambo
Senior
Business management

To get rid of all the suspense

Here's a quick rundown of what I figure to happen Tuesday in the three most prominent races in the state:

Governor
Bob Riley (R, incumbent) vs. Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley (D)
Who will win? Riley in a landslide.

Why? Riley, who looked to be finished politically once voters nixed his \$1.2 billion tax plan in 2003, has used rare administrative competence and unmatched cool during the worst (Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina) to coast to a second term.

Baxley's downfall Tuesday will be lack of substance, as Baxley is achingly bereft of a track record both by choice and circumstance. Lieutenant governor is not the job it was before Democrats neutered it in the late 1990s, which along with a few other gaffes has made ascending to the next job much difficult for its holders.

Still, Baxley has done nothing more than campaign on a slogan derived from a 50-year-old sitcom and the fact she is a woman — and one who at times seems to try to discredit her sex. While Riley's record is not perfect, he does have one.

Riley has used his cash stockpile to crank out several negative ads about Baxley, which is puzzling since polls have shown him far ahead for the past four months.

Of course, as late Celtics



Damage Control

Nick Beadle

beadle@cw.ua.edu

coach Red Auerbach proved, nothing says domination like a victory cigar while you're still on the bench.

Lt. Governor
Luther Strange (R) vs. Jim Folsom Jr. (D)

Who will win? Strange, but probably in a closer race than expected.

Why? Strange is an unknown commodity to the electorate, but if this election has proven anything, it is that the old names in Alabama politics (Wallace, Baxley, Siegelman and Moore) ain't what they used to be.

Folsom has made it relatively competitive and probably defined himself a little better than other candidates by showing off his gubernatorial track record (the Mercedes plant near Vance) and playing up his shotguns and dogs in campaign ads. But he still carries a few scars from his daddy, which has let Strange play him up as a political good ol' boy thirsty for power.

Look for Strange to win — not necessarily big, but enough to make a measured statement. Whether that means he is on his way to the governor's mansion in '10, though, is as murky as some of the former lobbyist's past.

But he is really tall, and as my 15-year-old brother likes to point out, has the name of a supervillain.

That has some selling value somewhere in the state.

Probably Huntsville.

Attorney General
Troy King (appointed incumbent, R) and John Tyson Jr.
Who will win? King, but not by much.

Why? Troy King is not really an attorney general as much as a sideshow act.

He is a guy who has relatively coasted into the job off an appointment that was more likely than not an effort by Riley to assuage Christian conservatives after former AG Bill Pryor defrocked former Chief Justice Roy Moore before heading to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

King has been a stunt politician. He brags about being the first guy to tell Massachusetts that Alabama would not honor gay marriages that came out of New England and once wore an ankle bracelet in a bold stand against sex offenders. His attacks on Mobile County District Attorney Tyson for plea bargaining (how all but a few criminal cases end) speak of a

lack of understanding of how the legal system really works or, more likely, the feigning of one to drum up votes.

His heavily scripted campaign ad featuring a woman who claims Tyson did not act fast enough to prosecute her mother's killer are pretty slimy. That did bait Tyson into an ad screaming that he prosecuted the woman, which is probably the unfortunate, but necessary low-point of his campaign.

So why will King win?

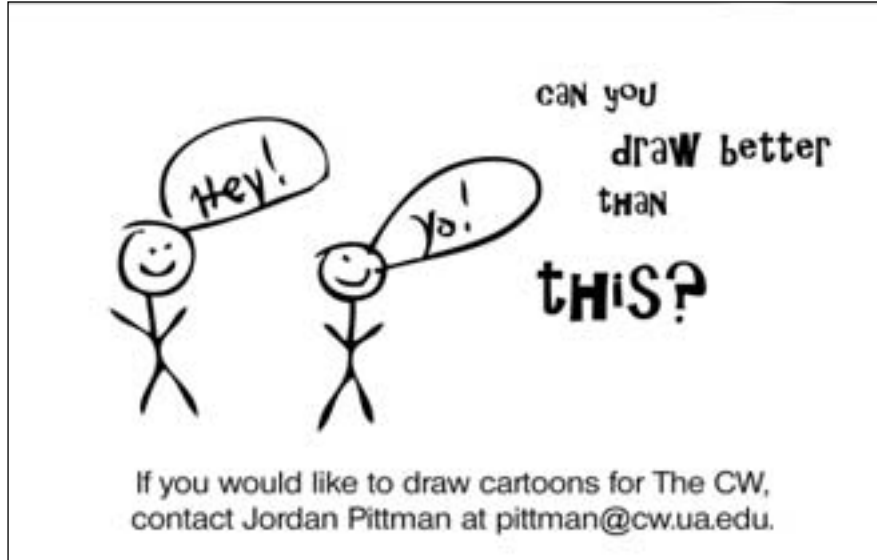
Because all his gimmicks still sell in Alabama, and most of the state's voters do not know the legal system well enough to know better.

Tyson, who was missing in action during the primary, has campaigned hard enough this fall to make it close. He will not win, but it will be close enough to merit a little bit more second-guessing of what King does with the job after he earns a little bit more legitimacy.

Don't be surprised to see Troy vs. Luther in the '10 Republican gubernatorial primary — it feels like they're on polar ends of the state party.

But King must do something big and meaningful over the next four years to have a shot. With the changing political climate, he won't be able to coast into the governor's mansion.

Nick Beadle is a senior reporter for The Crimson White and editor of the Corolla. His column runs on Mondays.



CW/ Zach Summers

How to get as big as Star Jones

In today's world, for you to be successful, you have to get your name out to the people. If no one has heard of you, then you'll never make it. Increasing our name recognition is something we are very interested in.

We've done more than 125 shows, had our name in the paper and got a Web site; and we are now writing a column for The Crimson White — a column that has been highly successful and well received by all who have read it.

In fact, The Associated Press has said, "Jake and Steve find themselves to be quite hysterical." For the AP to say that, it must be good. They don't just throw those kinds of compliments around.

Anyway, we think it's time we hit the big time. We're gracious to The CW for allowing us to increase its readership and hits on its Web site, but it's time we move on. We don't just want "Jake and Steve" to be a name. No, we want it to be a brand. Brands like L.A. Gear, Martha Stewart and Mrs. Buttersworth, the greatest of all pancake mistresses. We want to be thought of as highly as these products.

But to those of you with that puzzled look on your face, we



Read This Column

Jake & Steve

know you're going to ask, "Jake and Steve, how do you plan on doing this?" Good question, my befuddled friend.

It's quite simple. We want to be a part of your everyday life. So we are going to associate ourselves with things you hear about all the time.

Let's start at the beginning of your day. You wake up and your stomach is growling for something delicious. You go to your pantry and pull out a box of cereal. No, it's not Jake and Steve-berries, it's the wonderful mystery prize inside that we bring you.

You tear open that box, and what do you find? Syringes so the kids at home can play drug dealer. Oh, you already got those? Don't worry, because it's

a six-piece collector's set, complete with a lighter, 9-mm handgun, ski mask and an overcoat (only found in the family-size box, which can only be purchased at Costco).

Too big of a campaign to start with? OK, we have other methods of product recognition. What better way to get someone's attention than to tell them they are in bad health? We are in talks to gain sponsorship rights to leprosy. Not too big of a disease and not too small.

Some people make throwback jerseys, old Converse shoes and play regular Nintendo, but we want to take it to the next level: old-school diseases. Everything makes a comeback eventually, and we thought, why not get under your skin a little?

We would love nothing more than to walk into your local hospital and hear, "Sir, I'm sorry, you have leprosy, brought to you by Jake and Steve." That would also mean that we would inadvertently sponsor leper colonies. That's a two for one.

We are in talks with China to also get avian bird flu and start the comeback of SARS. In Japan, we're one contract signing away from sponsoring Godzilla's village rampages. What a great day

that would be for the Jake and Steve product.

Other things that would be beneficial to our namesake? How about fan involvement? We want to conquer Wikipedia. Someone has already added our name to "Edutainment."

We now need someone to create a master entry for the Jake and Steve Show. Have fun with it. Feel free to say that Jake dated Jessica Alba and Eva Longoria at the same time and that Steve has three houses in Beverly Hills. Add our names to any entry you see fit just as long as you can search Wikipedia and find it easily. I believe "leprosy" needs to be updated now, too.

All we're saying is that any exposure is good exposure. (Except "Northern Exposure." Don't know what they were thinking...)

We'll be associated with anything, just as long as it's not "This Crimson Tide Red Zone is brought to you by the Jake and Steve Show ..."

Jake Bennett and Steve Cummings host the Jake and Steve Show, which airs weekdays from 7 to 9 a.m. on WVUA-FM 90.7 The Capstone. Their column runs every other Monday.

■ NATIONAL NEWS

Bowers, former KKK wizard, dies in prison

By HOLBROOK MOHR
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Former Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard Samuel H. Bowers, who was convicted eight years ago of ordering the 1966 bombing death of a civil rights leader, died Sunday in a state penitentiary, officials said. He was 82.

He died of cardio pulmonary arrest, said Mississippi Department of Corrections spokeswoman Tara Booth.

Bowers was convicted in August 1998 of ordering the assassination of Vernon Dahmer Sr., a civil rights activist who had fought for black rights during Mississippi's turbulent struggle for racial equality. He was sentenced to life in prison.

"He was supposed to stay there until he died. I guess

he fulfilled that," Dahmer's widow, Ellie Dahmer, told The Associated Press on Sunday. "He lived a lot longer than Vernon Dahmer did."

Booth said the Klansman died at approximately 11:30 a.m. in the Mississippi State Penitentiary Hospital in Parchman, a sprawling prison carved out of the cotton and soybean fields in the impoverished Mississippi Delta.

Dahmer, who championed equal voting rights for blacks, died at the age of 58 after being fire-bombed outside his Hattiesburg-area home on Jan. 10, 1966. The attack came after Dahmer announced that residents could pay their poll taxes at his grocery store, which was next to his home. The home and store also were torched.

When the Dahmer family awoke to honking horns in

the pre-dawn hours that January morning, two carloads of Klansmen were waiting outside. They firebombed Dahmer when he exited the home, according to court testimony during a four-day trial in Forrest County Circuit Court in 1998.

Dahmer was able to keep the Klansmen at bay with a shotgun while his family fled, but flames had already seared his lungs and he died in his wife's arms about 12 hours later.

During the trial, prosecutors claimed Bowers ordered the attack after becoming enraged that Dahmer was trying to register blacks to vote.

Bowers' lawyers claimed he was "sacrificed to the media" to further the political ambitions of the attorney general at the time, Mike Moore.

Earlier trials for Bowers,

including at least two before all-white juries, ended in mistrials. A 1968 state jury split 11-1 in favor of guilty, while a 1969 jury split 10-2 in favor of conviction.

Dahmer's 77-year-old son, Vernon Dahmer Jr., said Bowers "caused a lot of pain, suffering and death for many innocent individuals and families of my race."

"During his life, he never apologized or asked forgiveness for his actions. Apparently, he felt justified for what he did to his many victims," Dahmer Jr. said. "Now that he has passed from this life, God will be the judge."

Bowers had a history of violence and served a prior six-year sentence after being convicted in 1967 on federal charges of violating the civil rights of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and

Michael Schwerner.

The three civil rights workers were stopped by Klansmen while in Mississippi in an effort to register black voters in 1964. They were beaten and shot and buried in an earthen dam. Bowers allegedly approved the killings as head of the KKK. Those slayings inspired the 1988 movie "Mississippi Burning."

Bowers' conviction was just one in string of civil rights killings to be successfully prosecuted in the South decades after the crimes were committed. The case was reopened at the urging of black leaders and family members, which led to new leads in the case.

In 1994, Mississippi won the conviction of Byron de la Beckwith for the 1963 sniper killing of NAACP leader Medgar Evers.

In Alabama, Bobby Frank Cherry was convicted in 2002 of killing four black girls in the bombing of a Birmingham church in 1963. In 2001, Thomas Blanton was convicted.

Edgar Ray Killen, an 80-year-old former Ku Klux Klansman, was convicted last June of manslaughter in the killings of three civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1964.

Dahmer's widow said Bowers' death brings little closure to a wound she has nursed for decades.

"It won't bring Vernon back," she said. "I lost a wonderful husband and my children lost a father. We lost a community leader. We lost a Christian man who saw good in people."

■ STATE NEWS

Poll: Riley poised for big win over Baxley

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTGOMERY — A new statewide poll indicates Gov. Bob Riley is headed to an easy re-election victory over Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley and puts Republican candidates ahead in the races for lieutenant governor, attorney general and secretary of state.

The survey, taken for The Birmingham News and other news organizations, also shows Republican Drayton Nabers and Democrat Sue Bell Cobb are about even in the race for chief justice of Alabama.

The telephone poll, which was released Saturday on The Birmingham News' Web site, has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

It was taken from Tuesday to Thursday among 500 voters who said they would vote on Tuesday.

Asked for whom they would vote if "the election for governor were held today," 59 percent said the Republican, Riley; 31 percent said the Democrat, Baxley; and the rest were undecided.

On final campaign swings, Riley told voters in Mobile and Baldwin counties his re-election would keep the state moving forward, while Baxley in southeast Alabama cast herself as the candidate of the working people.

Riley, on Saturday, finished a five-day, 29-town bus tour with stops along the Gulf Coast. Baxley spent Saturday in Pike County, riding in Troy

University's homecoming parade, and in Montgomery, where she filmed an interview for broadcast Sunday on a prominent black church's weekly television show.

Both Riley and Baxley encouraged Alabamians to vote Tuesday, regardless of their preference for governor.

In polling on other races: ■ Lieutenant governor candidate Republican Luther Strange was the choice for 50 percent of likely voters compared to 39 percent for Democrat Jim Folsom Jr. The remaining 11 percent were undecided.

■ Republican incumbent Troy King had 51 percent in the attorney general's race while his Democratic challenger John Tyson Jr., the Mobile

County district attorney, had 33 percent.

■ Republican Beth Chapman was chosen by 42 percent of those surveyed, compared to 32 percent for Democratic incumbent Nancy Worley in the secretary of state's race.

■ In the campaign for chief justice, Democratic challenger Cobb was the choice of 44 percent, while Republican Nabers was preferred by 43 percent.

The poll was directed by

Larry Powell, professor of communication studies at the UAB.

State Democratic Party Chairman Joe Turnham disputed the poll Saturday, saying the numbers "do not reflect what's going on on the ground."

"We think in the majority of statewide races Democrats are either ahead or in the margin of error to make a run on Tuesday," he said.

■ LOCAL NEWS

Shelton State president placed on paid leave amid fraud probe

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Interim two-year college Chancellor Thomas Corts has placed Shelton State Community College President Rick Rogers on paid administrative leave amid a fraud investigation.

Corts said Rogers will continue to receive his \$135,000 salary, but Corts said Friday he decided to place him on leave during the ongoing investigation of allegations that Rogers received money from a fraud scheme.

Corts notified the state school board of his decision.

The allegations against Rogers surfaced after Robert Nix, former Alabama Fire College board member, agreed to plead guilty to federal charges of money laundering, wire fraud and theft from a government agency.

A former deputy director of the Fire College, which is based at Shelton State in

Tuscaloosa, Nix resigned Monday from his part-time job at Shelton.

In his plea agreement, Nix, 67, said the president of Shelton State received \$11,000 worth of furniture for his home and \$14,000 to pay a personal cell phone bill from money Nix doled out from the Alabama Fire College Foundation.

Rogers said in a statement Thursday that he did not know about the furniture purchases, but the Fire College's foundation did provide a cell phone package.

"We're just trying to find, from our perspective, what involvement the system has and what has actually gone on to be fair to Dr. Rogers and to the system," Corts said. "We have to try to figure out what all's happening here, and this seems like the fairest way for him and for the system office."

Corts named Joanne

Jordan, vice chancellor and former president of Southern Union Community College, as acting president.

Jordan also has been the subject of controversy in recent months, acknowledging that she accepted free design services for her Lake Martin home from an architect she hired at Southern Union.

Jordan also has said she allowed former Chancellor Roy Johnson to send painters who worked on his Opelika home to Southern Union while she was president, giving them nearly \$50,000 in painting work without seeking competitive bids. Jordan said she used the painters at her Lake Martin home, but paid them for their work.

Corts said he chose Jordan because she has experience running a college. "I have to have somebody who has familiarity with the process and procedures. And she's available," he said.

because they are an easier group to identify, he said.

"These structured entities do about 90 percent good," Borst said. "It is just unfortunate

that everyone only hears about that other 10 percent."

UAPD deferred comment to UA media relations director Cathy Andreen, who failed to comment by press time.

CRIME

Continued from Page 2

to have higher crime rates than other organizations is

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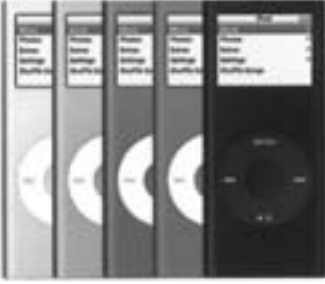
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INbrief

from wire reports...

McCartney talks about estranged wife

LONDON — Paul McCartney said Saturday he bears no grudge against his estranged second wife — despite acrimonious divorce proceedings that have seen lurid allegations about their marriage reported across the world.

The 64-year-old former Beatle said the breakup — seized on in Britain as the most high-profile split since Prince Charles and Princess Diana parted ways a decade ago — had left him saddened but determined to act with dignity.

McCartney and Heather Mills McCartney, a 38-year-old anti-land mine campaigner, announced their separation in May and began divorce proceedings in July. They have a 3-year-old daughter, Beatrice.

"There are certain things in life that are personal, and I think a relationship with a partner is intensely personal and I prefer to keep it that way," McCartney told British Broadcasting Corp. radio in an interview broadcast Saturday.

"When you are going through difficulties, I think the thing to do for the sake of all the people concerned is to keep a certain dignity and remember that it is a private affair, and that way, you will probably get through it better," he said.

McCartney said keeping details of the divorce private would "put less noses out of joint, and I think it is a more dignified way to go about it."

Critic accuses Wikipedia of plagiarism

NEW YORK — A critic of an online encyclopedia written and edited by its users has identified dozens of biographical articles that appear to contain passages lifted from other sites, prompting its administrators to delete several pending a review.

Daniel Brandt found the examples of suspected plagiarism at Wikipedia using a program he created to run a few sentences from about 12,000 articles against Google Inc.'s search engine. He removed matches in which another site appeared to be copying from Wikipedia, rather than the other way around, and examples in which material is in the public domain and was properly attributed.

Brandt ended with a list of 142 articles, which he brought to Wikipedia's attention.

The site's founder, Jimmy Wales, acknowledged that plagiarized passages do occasionally slip in, but he dismissed Brandt's findings as exaggerated.

Wikipedia allows anyone to post, edit and even delete items regardless of expertise and leaves it to other users to catch factual errors and other problems, including plagiarism.

Although plagiarism and copyright infringement are common among sites with user-generated content, Brandt said Wikipedia must be held to a higher standard, a point with which Wales agreed.

"They present it as an encyclopedia," Brandt said Friday. "They go around claiming it's almost as good as Britannica. They are trying to be mainstream respectable."

Brandt, who has long sparred with Wikipedia over an unflattering biography of himself, called on Wikipedia to conduct a throughout review of all its articles. The site currently has nearly 1.5 million in the English language alone.

Wales said plagiarism is always possible in a site that offers "wide-open editing ... but in general we take a very strong anti-plagiarism stance." Any time plagiarism is brought to the site's attention, he said, Wikipedia administrators review all postings made by that author.

'Borat' debuts with \$26.4 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Sacha Baron Cohen's Kazakh alter ego Borat made glorious returns at the box office, surprising Hollywood with a No. 1 debut.

"Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," 20th Century Fox's big-screen incarnation of Cohen's Kazakh journalist from "Da Ali G Show," took in \$26.4 million during its opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"This picture was playing to full houses," said Bruce Snyder, head of distribution at 20th Century Fox. "The planets aligned, the moons aligned, the stars aligned and everything came together perfectly for us on this weekend."

Box office analysts had expected Disney's "The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause," with Tim Allen returning as St. Nicholas, to win the weekend. It was No. 2 with \$20 million, followed by the Paramount-DreamWorks animated comedy "Flushed Away" in third place with \$19.1 million.

With great Internet buzz and a built-in following from "Da Ali G Show," "Borat" succeeded where another cyber sensation, "Snakes on a Plane," failed. "Snakes" opened last summer to modest crowds despite months of Internet hoopla.

The raucous, raunchy "Borat" follows the adventures of British comedian Cohen's TV journalist from Kazakhstan in a blend of fiction and improvised comic encounters

as he travels the United States, meets and mocks Americans and reports back to his home country.

"It is what you go to the theater for," said Hutch Parker, the studio's head of production. "You get that infectious, outrageous, interactive experience. There are people yelling at the screen, there are cheers."

"Borat" played in only 837 theaters, less than one-fourth the count for "The Santa Clause 3" and "Flushed Away." Averaging a whopping \$31,511 per theater, "Borat" easily outdistanced "The Santa Clause 3," which averaged \$5,784 in 3,458 cinemas, and "Flushed Away," which averaged \$5,152 in 3,707 theaters.

Fox plans to expand "Borat" to as many as 2,500

theaters Friday.

"The Santa Clause 3" pits Allen's St. Nick against Jack Frost (Martin Short) as they battle for control of Christmas. "Flushed Away" features the voices of Hugh Jackman and Kate Winslet in the story of a pampered pet mouse forced to make his way among sewer rats.

The two movies split the family audience, but their opening weekends were solid starts for the holiday season. Disney and Paramount expect their movies to hang tough through year's end, even with the Warner Bros. animated penguin tale "Happy Feet" coming just before Thanksgiving.

"The Thanksgiving holiday is going to be just rocking," said Disney head of

distribution Chuck Viane.

The previous weekend's top movie, Lionsgate's horror sequel "Saw III," held up solidly at No. 4 with \$15.5 million, raising its 10-day total to \$60.1 million.

However, the strong crop of new movies and holdovers did not quite stack up to the same weekend a year ago, when "Chicken Little" opened at No. 1 with \$40 million and "Jarhead" debuted at No. 2 with \$27.7 million. This weekend's top 12 movies took in \$116.2 million, down 3 percent from the same period last year.

Estimated ticket sales are for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released today.

Shakira, Cerati, Calle 13 win two awards each

BY SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Shakira won two awards, including coveted song of the year honors for her smoldering "La Tortura" duet with Alejandro Sanz, while Argentine rocker Gustavo Cerati and reggae-ton group Calle 13 also took home two trophies each at the Latin Grammy awards, making its New York City debut on Thursday night.

Shakira, the leading nominee with five, also won best female pop vocal album for "Fijacion Oral Vol. 1," her best-selling Spanish language album. Earlier in the evening, Shakira performed the hit song with Sanz in typical gyrating fashion, her chest heaving and hips swaying to the reggaeton-inflected beat. Moments earlier, she was demure as she performed a low-key ballad.

"Thank you for this honor you've given me," Shakira, perhaps the evening's biggest star, said after winning the award, also thanking "the public and to Alejandro, who helped me with this song."

Cerati won best rock song for "Crimen" and best rock vocal album for "Ahi vamos."

Other winners included Mexican singer/accordion player Julieta Venegas, who was nominated for four awards. She won best alternative album for "Limon y sal" in the pre-televised awards ceremony.

Triple nominee Calle 13 picked up awards for best music album and best short music video Grammy for its reggaeton song "Atrevete te, te!" Its members were ecstatic as they won, bouncing onstage to pick up the video award.

"I'm honestly wetting myself," Calle 13 rapper and lyricist Residente said.

"I'm very nervous. I want an 'arroz con habichuelas' when I get to my house," he said in reference to a Puerto Rican rice and bean specialty.

Under the Mexican regional award categories, Joan Sebastian took away the best banda album award for "Mas alla del sol."

The self-titled disc by Cafe de los Maestros won best tango album. The recording's Argentine producer, Gustavo Santaolalla, won an Oscar this year for best original score on the movie "Brokeback Mountain" and recently composed music for the film "Babel."

This year, Madison Square Garden played host to the Latin Grammys, now in its sixth year. In the past, the show has alternated between Miami and Los Angeles. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg took to the stage to a Latin beat, escorted by several female dancers dressed in red. "Welcome to my house," Bloomberg said in Spanish.

Thursday's show was broadcast by Univision television for the second straight year. Ratings lagged in 2004 when the Latin Grammy Awards were broadcast in English by CBS. But the show attracted more than 5 million watchers in 2005 — its first year in Spanish — up from about 3.2 million in 2004, according to the ratings agency Nielsen Media Research.

Musicians from Puerto Rico earned 33 Latin Grammy nominations, including all the nominations for best urban music album and best salsa album.



AP Photo
Shakira holds the four awards she won at the Latin Grammy Awards in New York on Thursday.

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INbrief

from wire reports...

LOS ANGELES — Leonard Schrader, who wrote the Academy Award-nominated film "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and co-wrote the critically praised "Mishima," died Thursday. He was 62.

Schrader died of heart failure at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, said his brother, "Taxi Driver" screenwriter Paul Schrader. He had suffered from a number of ailments, including cancer, his brother said.

Schrader was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., to a family of Dutch Calvinists who forbade the brothers to see any movies. He didn't see his first film until he was in college in the 1960s.

Schrader attended Calvin College and received a master's degree at the University of Iowa's Writer's Workshop.

In 1969 and the early 1970s, he lived in Japan, where he taught American literature at universities and became interested in Japanese Yakuza

gangster culture.

His first film was "The Yakuza," co-written in the 1970s with his brother and starring Robert Mitchum. Sydney Pollack directed.

Schrader wrote or co-wrote about a dozen movies, including 1978's "Blue Collar" and three Japanese-language movies.

They included 1985's "Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters," based on the life of the famed Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima.

His adaptation of a novel by Argentinean novelist Manuel Puig became "The Kiss of the Spider Woman." It earned him a 1985 Oscar nomination and won William Hurt the award for best actor.

Schrader also directed the 1991 independent movie "Naked Tango," filmed in Argentina and starring Vincent D'Onofrio.

Schrader taught film and screenwriting at USC and at Chapman College. In 2003 he became senior filmmaker-in-residence at the American Film Institute, where he chaired the Screenwriting Department and taught a graduate class.

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INbrief

from wire reports...

Wal-Mart cuts costs on electronics for holidays

NEW YORK — Wal-Mart stepped up its discounting Friday in advance of the holiday season, announcing deep price cuts on almost 100 electronics that focused on high definition TVs, cell phones and digital cameras.

The news came a day after the world's largest retailer announced disappointing October sales and a lackluster November outlook.

The discounts, or what Wal-Mart Stores Inc. counts as rollbacks, are effective through Dec. 31. They include such items as Panasonic 42-inch HD plasma TVs, slashed to \$1,294 from \$1,794; the Polaroid LCD HDTV, reduced to \$997, from \$1,297; and Cingular C139 prepaid phones, marked down to \$19.97 from \$29.98.

In a release Thursday, Wal-Mart said it planned to "reinforce Wal-Mart's price leadership position" in such areas as toys and electronics. The discounts on electronics follow Wal-Mart's move in mid-October to cut prices on more than 100 holiday toys, which the company said is already resulting in a "significant lift in unit volume."

Given Wal-Mart's size and dominance among U.S. retailers, the move seemed likely to be more bad news for its electronics rivals such as Best Buy Co. and Circuit Stores Inc. Analysts are predicting slower sales growth this year for the consumer electronics industry as prices for products like flat-panel TVs drop, draws of holidays past like digital cameras mature and no big hits have cropped up.

Wal-Mart's same-store sales in the U.S. for the four weeks ended Oct. 27 grew 0.5 percent, a figure that includes growth of a mere 0.3 percent at Wal-Mart Stores and 2 percent at Sam's Club.

■ MOVIE REVIEW

Mirren makes masterful film 'Queen'

Film examines tumult of British monarchy following death of Diana

By COREY CRAFT
Entertainment Editor
■ craft@cw.ua.edu

This weekend, from opposite ends of the spectrum, have come two films that probe and detail cultural differences in refreshingly intelligent ways.

One is "Borat," and I hope that by describing it as "intelligent," it does not make you think that it's not funny, because it definitely is, though it also has something to say. The other is the new drama "The Queen," which opened this weekend at the Rave Vestavia in Birmingham.

Full of life and wry observations about the British monarchy and its relationship with the citizenry in this modern age, director Stephen Frears has crafted a magnificent, deceptively complex film anchored by a wonderful performance by Helen Mirren as Queen Elizabeth II.

The film opens with the landslide victory of Tony Blair (Michael Sheen, nearly a dead-ringer) and the Labour Party in the election for prime minister. The transition into this new job is soon made difficult, however, with the unexpected death of Princess Diana, deemed "the People's Princess" in Blair's address to the country.

Queen Elizabeth and the royals, with lives dictated by centuries of protocol, make the initial decision to hold a private service for Diana with no outward expression of grief. And why should they? Precedence holds, and

after all, at the time of her death Diana was no longer a member of the royal family, having split with Prince Charles a year before.

Public grief soon turns to anger at the perceived lack of emotion from the royals, and before too long, the queen faces a political crisis as she finds pressure on all sides to express some sort of emotion.

The queen is more concerned with the care of her grandchildren than about making a public statement, and there is a constant subtext reminding us that Queen Elizabeth really didn't like Diana, anyway. As representative of the people, Blair must convince the queen in some way to avoid crisis, and in the process, he gains a greater understanding of the monarchy.

This may seem alien to American audiences, and the idea of the monarchy is a strange one. But this film is never less than compelling, with screenwriter Peter Morgan's elegant, literate, surprisingly warm and humorous script balancing many ideas.

For a good companion piece to "The Queen," see "Marie Antoinette." Both films are about queens out of touch with their subjects, though in the case of "The Queen," we are given access into an antiquated — if not dying — tradition, one that perhaps wrongly values precedent over individual circumstance.

But the monarchy's case is strong: For so long, the flag at Buckingham Palace has only flown at half-mast when the royals are in residence, and for no other reason. Why change that now? Why disrupt centuries of tradition for a woman who is no longer even



Rottentomatoes.com

Helen Mirren stars as Queen Elizabeth II in Stephen Frears' "The Queen," which opened this weekend in Birmingham.

considered royalty?

With something as potentially controversial as this, Morgan avoids condemnation and easy stereotypes, though naturally some people come off better than others. Prince Phillip (James Cromwell), for example, is portrayed as begrudging and unsympathetic, and Prince Charles (Alex Jennings) is portrayed as indecisive, if not flat-out weak. Sylvia Sims makes a strong impression in a brief, funny role as the Queen Mother, who makes jokes about her own mortality.

But all this works because of the intelligent performances. Mirren as the queen is simply superb in the best performance I've seen all year. Her Queen Elizabeth is smart, conflicted, strong and rather out-of-touch with the people. Sheen as

Blair reminds everyone that, at some point, Blair was actually an overwhelmingly popular politician.

Both performances, in a good and just world, would receive Oscar nominations, and I'll flat-out say Mirren should win. It's doubtful I'll see a better performance by an actress all year.

All this is to say that "The Queen" is a wonderful film,

and well worth the brief drive to Birmingham. If, come January, you're one of those movie fans who finds that he hasn't seen many of the Oscar-nominated films, take it upon yourself to preemptively remedy that problem and see this movie.



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Celebrate midterm elections with political films

By COREY CRAFT
Entertainment Editor
craft@cw.ua.edu

Well, it's that time of every other year again: election week. Television is insufferable, with prime time yielding a political ad every 10 seconds. If one were to take a shot of liquor every time someone uttered the phrase "too liberal for Alabama," he would be dead within 20 minutes.

So since you can't rely on television to entertain you because of all the politics, count on these films about the American political process for the next couple of days to ease the pain of those mudslinging ads:

"The Manchurian Candidate"

The recent remake was good, but the original 1962 film is one of the best films about political intrigue ever made.



The film tells the story of a Korean War POW (Laurence Harvey) who has been brainwashed as part of an elaborate Communist assassination plot and another prisoner (Frank Sinatra) who has stumbled onto the plot. It's noteworthy for having been shelved for many years following the assassination of President Kennedy, and Angela Lansbury's chilling performance is one of the hallmarks of '60s cinema.

"Wag the Dog"

From director Barry Levinson and the terrific playwright David Mamet, "Wag the Dog" is one of the most incisive political satires ever made and is incredibly funny. Robert De Niro plays the most prominent master of spin in Washington who, when the president is caught in a



sex scandal, is tasked with inventing a war to distract the country from political turmoil. Dustin Hoffman co-stars as the Hollywood producer brought on board to provide the special effects. It's remarkably funny, especially for a movie that went into production before the Lewinsky scandal.

"Spartan"

Another film from Mamet, "Spartan" is a terrific action movie about a super-secret agent (Val Kilmer) investigating the kidnapping of the daughter of a high-ranking government official. The film contains twists and turns that I will not spoil. Kilmer has seldom been better, and Mamet's intelligent dialogue elevates what could have been a generic thriller into some-



thing that is almost poetry.

"Election"

This film features politics on a smaller scale, but Alexander Payne's high school student government satire flick is one of the funniest movies I've ever seen. Reese Witherspoon plays Tracy Flick, the eponymous over-ambitious teenager determined to ascend to the high school presidency. Matthew Broderick plays the faculty adviser determined to destroy her. It's pretty dark stuff but mostly true to life and extremely funny.



"JFK"

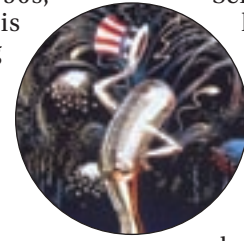
Oliver Stone's controversial film



about the assassination of President Kennedy is probably mostly conjecture, and it doesn't really offer any hard or convincing facts about the enormous conspiracy. But it's compelling, entertaining and more than worth its four hour-plus running time. Kevin Costner is at his absolute best here, and with an ensemble cast that includes nearly every notable actor of the early '90s, Stone's film is an amazing document of paranoia and suspicion of every-level of government.

"Nashville"

It's not entirely about country music. Robert Altman's masterpiece uses a presidential campaign as the backdrop for an expansive story of music, heart-break and politics. With a



cast of nearly 30 characters that includes Lily Tomlin, Ned Beatty, Scott Glenn and Shelley Duvall, Altman proved right off the bat why he's the best at ensemble dramas with one of the best films of the '70s.

"Good Night, and Good Luck."

The best film of last year, George Clooney's Oscar-nominated film about Edward R. Murrow's battle with U.S. Sen. Joseph McCarthy at the height of the Red Scare is an all-around excellent motion picture. It's a fascinating parable about the power of the media to influence politics for the better. David Strathairn as Murrow is terrific, and the black-and-white cinematography is atmospheric and moody in all the right ways.



Classic 'Threepenny Opera' takes the stage

By PHIL OWEN
Assistant Entertainment Editor
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In the continuing celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Marian Galloway Theatre in Rowand-Johnson Hall, the UA department of theatre and dance will present "The Threepenny Opera" beginning Tuesday night.

For the anniversary celebration, the department is presenting one production that was performed in the Galloway in each decade of its existence. "The Threepenny Opera" was previously produced by the department in 1971.

The first production in this anniversary series, "Our Town," represents the 1980s and was performed during the 1987-88 season.

"Threepenny" will debut Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., and the last show will be Sunday at 2 p.m. The show can also be seen at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

Tickets are \$8 for students; \$10 for senior citizens and UA faculty and staff; and \$12 for general admission. Tickets can be obtained in the box office just inside the entrance of Rowand-Johnson Hall.

"Threepenny" is a world-renowned play written by Bertolt Brecht in 1928. The play is an adaptation of John Gay's ballad opera, "The Beggar's Opera," written in 1728.

But while "The Beggar's Opera" is a true opera, Stephen Tyler Davis, who plays Jonathan Peachum in "Threepenny," said Brecht's update doesn't exactly play it straight.

"It's really more of a parody of an opera," Davis said.

The story of the play revolves around the character of Macheath, played by Jason Keef, who marries a girl named Polly Peachum. The main conflict in the play forms when Polly's father, Jonathan Peachum, finds out about the marriage and works to have Macheath, who leads a gang of thieves, incarcerated for his many crimes.

Keef said he thinks the production would be a popular one.

"It's a very interesting show," Keef said. "It's kind of twisted. It's a lot of fun."

Davis explained that the show has some plot machinations that give it some resonance.

"My character [Peachum] is supposed to be the good guy, helping the poor, but he's actually corrupt," he said. Davis said Keef's character has a similar arc, appearing to be only an evil criminal but turning out to be not such a bad guy. Davis also said the role has



CW/ Leslie Roop

UA department of theatre and dance students rehearse "The Threepenny Opera" Sunday evening. The show runs Tuesday through Sunday in the Marian Galloway Theatre. For tickets and additional information, call the box office at 348-3400.

been a major challenge for him because his character is 64 years old.

The play is set in London, and like last spring's production of "Major Barbara," the actors will have to adopt British accents for the show. Davis said the accents would vary from character to character between typical British and Cockney.

Keef said he and Davis would do both accents, depending on what each character is doing.

Keef said there would be a major improvement in the accents in this play from "Major Barbara."

"In 'Major Barbara,' we didn't have the coaching," he said. "We've had one of the new grad students, Marian [Mantovani], who is British, give us notes every night. It's been a big help."

Keef also said Allison Hetzel, who directed this season's production of "Our Town," helped the actors work on the accents.

This show is also significant because it will be the last time Davis, who has been a driving force behind the success of Guerrilla Theatre, will perform in an official UA production.

"I'm excited about it," Davis said.

"The Threepenny Opera" is directed by Ed Williams, the chairman of the department of theatre and dance, with musical numbers directed by Raphael Crystal and choreographed by Cornelius

Carter. Other cast members include Dianna Duffy, Emily Etheridge and Allison Wilkes.

If you go ...
What: "The Threepenny Opera"
When: Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.
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ROLL TIDE!!!

INbrief

from wire reports ...

Tide wraps up play at SEC Coaches Classic

Sunday was the final day of the SEC Fall Coaches Classic in Peachtree City, Ga., as the Alabama women's tennis team played one round of both singles and doubles to conclude their fall season.

The Crimson Tide won two of its three doubles contests on the day, including both of its A draw matches. Mari Muller and Nicole Briceno came away with an 8-5 victory over Melissa Koning and Whitney Chappell of Auburn. Sofia Ayala and Andrea Brenes also won 8-5 against Monika Danevic and Lara Fakoury of Georgia. In Alabama's other doubles match, Shelley Godwin and Bianca Svensson lost to Renee Joseph and Elna de Villiers of Mississippi State 8-4.

Briceno and Svensson each won in singles action. Briceno downed Caroline Winebrenner of Kentucky in straight sets 7-5, 6-3 in the C draw. Svensson played in the draw and won 7-5, 6-4 against Caroline Ferrell of Vanderbilt.

Five other Alabama players were in action in singles on Sunday. In the A draw, Muller fell in straight sets to Kentucky's Jessica Guigglioli 6-2, 6-2. Ayala was defeated 6-2, 6-1 against Nicole Kantor of LSU in the B draw. Brenes lost to Liberty Sveke of Vanderbilt 6-4, 6-3 in the C draw. Alice Tunaru and Paulina Bigos each lost in the D draw. Tunaru was defeated by Hannah Blatt of Vanderbilt 6-4, 6-4, and Bigos lost to Sloane Mathis of LSU 6-1, 6-4.

The Tide will now have some time off before the beginning of the spring season. They will next compete in the Virginia Invitational in Charlottesville, Va., Jan. 19-21. The first dual match will be Jan. 27 against Oregon in Lubbock, Texas.

Paterno injured during Penn State game

Penn State coach Joe Paterno injured his knee in the second half when one of his own players ran into him on the sideline during Wisconsin's victory.

The 79-year-old Paterno stood with his hands on his knees for several minutes after freshman tight end Andrew Quarless rolled into him after catching a sideline pass.

Paterno was carted to the locker room near the end of the third quarter.

A Penn State spokesman said Paterno had a knee injury and was flying back to State College, Pa., with a member of the school's medical staff ahead of the rest of the team.

FOOTBALL ■ MISSISSIPPI STATE 24, ALABAMA 16

Offense fails to score in loss

By JESSIE PATTERSON
Sports Editor
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The Alabama football team lost to Mississippi State, a team that was 2-7 overall and winless in the SEC before beating the Crimson Tide in Bryant-Denny Stadium.

The question is: Why? That's what Alabama will have to figure out this week as they look back and dissect a poor offensive performance.

Sophomore quarterback John Parker Wilson completed just 19 of 39 passes for 187 yards and had two interceptions in Alabama's 24-16 loss to Mississippi State.

"We didn't play well enough to win," Wilson said after the game. "They won more plays than we did. Our defense kept it close, but we didn't make the plays we needed to make to win."

Wilson said Alabama is struggling offensively.

"We are having some problems, but we have two games left," he said. "We are going to have to correct all our mistakes. We moved the ball pretty well. At times we looked like we had a spark going, but then something happened and we didn't execute."

Alabama's rushing offense only gained 116 yards on 26

carries, an average of 4.46 yards per carry. Senior running back Kenneth Darby led the Tide with 13 carries for 56 yards, providing almost half of the team's rushing yardage.

The Tide managed three field goals by kicker Jamie Christensen and a defensive touchdown by Jeffrey Dukes — but there were no touchdowns on the offensive side of the game.

Senior Tim Castille said the Tide just didn't play well offensively against Mississippi State.

"We just didn't get the job done, no question," Castille said. "We never got in the flow. We've got to score touchdowns. We didn't get our jobs done as offensive players."

Castille had two carries for 10 yards and four receptions for 16 yards against the Bulldogs.

"When you look at the results and yardage, it is easy to say we haven't improved," Alabama head coach Mike Shula said. "We're not getting as many big plays as we had all week. When we really move the ball well, we get big plays from guys."

Shula said the entire team and coaching staff is down and disappointed in Saturday's performance.

"We all know we could



CW/ T.G. Paschal

Sophomore quarterback John Parker Wilson is tackled by two Mississippi State defenders on Saturday.

have played better today," he said. "These guys have worked hard and been great. We are going through some tough times, and I'm proud

of the way these guys have handled themselves, especially the seniors. We want them to go out on a winning note."

VOLLEYBALL ■ KENTUCKY 3, ALABAMA 2

Volleyball splits weekend road matches

FROM STAFF REPORTS

It was another volleyball thriller for the Crimson Tide, but this time Alabama fell just short of another comeback on the road at Kentucky, falling 3-2 in Lexington.

On Friday night in Knoxville, the Tide pulled off a stunning comeback, beating Tennessee on its home floor after losing the first two games of the match.

"I am proud of our team for the entire weekend," Alabama head coach Judy Green said. "We came back from down 0-2 twice and rallied as a team at two tough places to play. Our team grew tremendously over the past few weeks, and we saw that again this weekend."

After again falling behind 0-2, (30-21, 30-25) Alabama looked on track for another comeback win, storming back to win the next two games 30-22 and 30-25 to knot the match with Kentucky at 2-2. A see-saw battle ensued in the deciding frame, but the Wildcats survived, coming out on top in a 15-12 game-five decision.

The loss gives Alabama a split with UK after winning the first meeting, 3-0, in mid-October.

Alabama is 15-10 on the

season with a 10-6 record in the SEC, while Kentucky is now 16-8 and 9-7 in the SEC.

"I think the difference in the match was that Kentucky just got three more kills than we did in the fifth game," Green said. "We didn't get the ultimate reward today, but they got a lot of other rewards. Our younger players got better, and our rotation players played great volleyball this weekend."

Junior Crystal Hudson, who went over the 1,000-kill career mark against Tennessee, continued to lead the Tide's offense, adding 14 kills and hitting .364 against Kentucky.

Hudson and Rachael Green both posted a match-best eight blocks on the day. Brigitte Slack turned in 44 assists for the Tide, while Amy Pauly and Sarah Snider led the Alabama defensive game with 17 and 14 digs, respectively.

"I was really proud of Sarah Snider, who came in and played great volleyball for us," Judy Green said. "She is getting back into form and I was very happy with the spark she gave our team today."

Alabama stays on the road for two more SEC matches, facing LSU in Baton Rouge on Friday and Arkansas in Fayetteville on Sunday.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ■ DELTA STATE 66, ALABAMA 59

Women's basketball falls to Delta State in exhibition

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Alabama women's basketball team was unable to overcome a difficult first half on the offensive end in a 66-59 loss to the seventh-ranked Division II team from Delta State in the Tide's exhibition finale in Coleman Coliseum on Sunday afternoon.

"We faced a very athletic, veteran team who lost just three games last season," Alabama

head coach Stephany Smith said. "We are very bogged down right now mentally in trying to learn all of the things we have added over the past few weeks, but this is all part of the learning process for our young team."

The Tide shot just 29.2 percent in the opening half, failing to convert several opportunities from close range on the offensive end. Alabama didn't help itself at

the foul line either, shooting 7-of-13 as a team from the free-throw stripe. The Tide also committed 11 turnovers in the half.

Meanwhile, Delta State seemingly couldn't miss. The Lady Statesmen shot 59.3 percent in the opening half, helping them build a 36-21 lead at the break.

Alabama responded in the second frame, shooting 45.2 percent from the floor

while holding Delta State to a 38.1 percent performance. The Tide pulled to within three late but was unable to make enough shots down the stretch to overcome the deficit.

Alabama went 9-of-11 from the foul line in the second half but finished the game just 1-of-8 from the 3-point arc.

Leading the way for the Tide on the offensive end was

senior Navonda Moore. The preseason second team All-SEC selection had 11 points, the only Alabama player in double figures for the day. Moore added four steals and six rebounds to the effort.

Talisha Chandler, a true freshman, grabbed eight rebounds to go with her eight points while shooting a perfect 6-of-6 from the free-throw line. Nikki Davis scored nine points and

dished three assists, while Tamara Williams chipped in eight points on 4-of-4 shooting from the field.

Alabama opens its regular season on Nov. 10 against in-state rival Samford. The Tide women's team kicks off a men's-women's doubleheader in Coleman Coliseum in the regular season openers. The women play at 5 p.m. and the men play immediately after.



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The votes for the crossword/ sudoku were too close to call, so we decided to run both puzzles!

Congrats to Paisley Cassidy for winning the MIS State tickets!

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Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Convulsive breaths
 - U.K. channel
 - Partially melted snow
 - Like frustrated needs
 - Org. with maps
 - Actor Sal
 - French farewell
 - Landed
 - Llama land
 - Attendance check
 - Passionate
 - Rapping Dr.
 - OSS, today
 - Church table
 - Frigid
 - First, second or third infielder
 - Lively parties
 - Moines, IA
 - Depravity
 - Was sore
 - Classifieds
 - Deadly poisons
 - HOMES part
 - 911 call respondent
 - Most rational
 - Admonish
 - Austrian range
 - Phrygian king
 - Kind of race
 - 987-65-4321 grp.
 - Aristocratic classes
 - Beautifully designed
 - Gobbled up
 - Can. province
 - Puppeteer Lewis
 - Salad green
 - Waste fillers
 - Carried
 - German state
 - CD's rival
 - Planted items

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15			16					
17					18			19					
20					21			22					
23			24				25						
26					27					28	29		
30	31	32					33			34			
35					36					37			
38					39			40					
41				42				43					
44								45			46	47	48
49	50							51			52		
53							54			55			
56							57			58			
59							60			61			

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Solutions

- DOWN**
- Backcourt player
 - Choice of conjunctions
 - Happy expression
 - Strip
 - Finished with cement
 - Narrative song
 - out (eject)
 - Hip dude
 - Suffers a stinging pain
 - "Dynasty" co-star
 - Weaken the foundation of
 - Spotted
 - Emcee
 - Has something
 - Lamenter's cry
 - Vigoda and Lincoln
 - Joy
 - Poker bullets
 - Brooding place
 - Pugilist Max
 - Field measure
 - Fellow sailors
 - Lic. to pull teeth
 - Home of Iowa State
 - Protestant sect members
 - Tanguay and Gabor
 - Trellis part
 - Danish port
 - Apprehend
 - Assert
 - Begot
 - Etching fluids
 - Training sch.
 - Loser to the tortoise
 - Mystique
 - Oxford or brogue
 - Letters in math proofs

S	O	E	S	I	V	O	E	S	S	E	H	
O	E	L	O	I	S	W	E	S	S	E	W	
I	W	A	S	E	N	O	N	E	L	V	E	
C	H	I	S	I	H	V	S	E	N	V	H	
V	S	S	L	V	S	W	D	I	W			
			S	d	T	V	E	A	O	H	E	H
I	S	E	N	V	S	W	E	E	I	H		
S	E	N	V	S	O	V	D	E	H	O	V	
E	O	I	A	S	E	O	S	E	H	S	V	B
N	W	E	S	V	O	T	O	C				
	W	L	V	V	I	O	E	W	O			
I	N	E	D	W	V	A	T	O	T	O	H	
S	E	C	N	V	I	L	I	N	E	I	D	V
O	E	N	I	W	V	V	L	E	W	N	N	
H	S	O	T	S	O	B	B	S	d	S	V	O

Sudoku By Michael Mepham

Level: 1 2 3 4

			9			2		
	1	9					3	6
5	6						7	9
		6	5		1	7		
	3							5
		1	4		3	8		
7	2						1	8
	9	8					6	3
				1		9		

www.sudoku.org.uk

9	1	2	7	8	6	3	4	5
7	3	4	1	9	5	6	2	8
5	6	8	4	3	2	9	7	1
4	2	3	5	7	1	8	9	6
1	9	5	2	6	8	4	3	7
8	7	6	9	4	3	5	1	2
3	5	7	6	1	4	2	8	9
2	8	9	3	5	7	1	6	4
6	4	1	8	2	9	7	5	3

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INbrief

from staff reports ...

Alabama-LSU game slated to be on ESPN

The SEC office said Sunday that Alabama's upcoming football game at LSU will be televised by ESPN and kickoff is set for 6:45 p.m. from Tiger Stadium.

This will be Alabama's first regular season appearance on ESPN since its last visit to Baton Rouge two years ago.

Mike Patrick (play-by-play), Todd Blackledge (analyst) and Holly Rowe (sideline reporter) will call the game to a national cable audience.

Alabama (6-4, 2-4 SEC) will be making its seventh television appearance this season.

Other SEC games slated for telecast this weekend include Georgia at Auburn (11:30 a.m. — Lincoln Financial Sports), South Carolina at Florida (2:30 p.m. — CBS Sports) and Tennessee at Arkansas (6 p.m. — ESPN2).

Rowing earns pair of top-five finishes

The Alabama rowing team took to the Tennessee River at the Head of the Hooch Regatta on Saturday with its largest contingent of the season, competing in five races with seven boats and garnering two top-five finishes.

"In terms of rowing against NCAA competition, this was our toughest challenge to date," Alabama head coach Larry Davis said. "Our novices were excited about competing against that many crews and they saw what it takes to compete at this level, and they're looking forward to next week."

The Crimson Tide took fourth in both the lightweight 4+ and the lightweight 8+ races. Alabama turned in a 19:05.9, just four percent off the winning boat, in the lightweight 4+. In the 8+, the Tide finished with a 17:42.6, 6-percent off the lead boat.

"I was pleased with how the lightweights rowed," Davis said. "They rowed with some commitment and some fire. They did a good job. I liked how our novices rowed; I thought they did well in their first outing of the season. I wasn't as happy with how our championship 8 rowed. In the championship 4, I think we were just a bit outgunned."

The Tide had three boats in the novice 8+ race. The Tide's "B" boat took 11th place while the "A" was 13th and the "C" 14th. The "B" board turned in a time of 18:40.1, the "A" turned a 19:03.5 and the "C" crossed the line at 19:14.1.

In the championship 8+, the Tide finished 18th with a 16:37.9, just 6.6 percent off the winning boat. In the championships 4+ race, Alabama finished 26th with a 19:23.9.

Five former Tide stars tapped for ASHOF

Five of the eight members in the 2007 induction class of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame played at the Capstone. The inductees who played for the Tide are Jerry Duncan, Wilbur Jackson, Buck Johnson, Barry Krauss and Al Lary.

The 2007 class of inductees will be enshrined into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame on June 3 at the Sheraton Hotel in Birmingham. Tickets will be available at a later date.

FOOTBALL ■ MISSISSIPPI STATE 24, ALABAMA 16

Bulldogs take early lead, burn Tide



Sophomore quarterback John Parker Wilson is sacked during Alabama's loss to Mississippi State on Saturday.

By DAN SELLERS
Assistant Sports Editor
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If you keep playing with fire, you wind up burned. Once again, Alabama dangled its gasoline-soaked season around a flame, and the Mississippi State Bulldogs ignited it Saturday afternoon with a 24-16 win at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

The offense was the same stuttering, sputtering eyesore that has slowed Alabama all season, but this time, the Crimson Tide defense couldn't make enough plays to bail them out.

After a poor first half, the defense was dominating in the second half, but the Tide offense couldn't overcome a 14-point deficit. They strung together a couple of decent drives, but the red zone woes continued as Alabama only converted field goals.

"We are struggling right now," Alabama quarterback John Parker Wilson said. "We are having some problems, but we have two games left. We are going to have to correct all our mistakes."

"We moved the ball pretty well. At times, we looked like we had a spark going, but then something happened and we didn't execute."

The first letdown came on the opening drive of the game. The Tide marched down the field on a 12-play

drive, but they stalled inside the 1-yard line. Tim Castille was stopped for a 1-yard loss on second down, and Wilson's pass to DJ Hall on third down was well out of bounds.

Jamie Christensen connected on a 19-yard field goal to set the tone for the whole game.

The Bulldogs responded quickly when Michael Henig connected with Tony Burks on a 25-yard touchdown strike just two minutes later.

After a Mississippi State field goal, the Alabama defense came up with a big play to tie the game. Senior safety Jeffrey Dukes stepped in front of a Bulldog receiver and picked off the Henig pass.

Dukes, who almost fell, kept his balance and raced 24 yards for the Tide's only touchdown of the game.

However, the Bulldogs didn't go away. In fact, they came out and made a statement.

Henig found Jamaye Smith on a 41-yard play down the right sideline, and two plays later, Henig and Smith hooked up for a 13-yard touchdown. The way Mississippi State drove virtually unimpeded gave them a boost of confidence.

"It was big time in the game for us," Henig said. "For us to be able to come out and respond to their points, we had to do it. We came out and we said we were going to do it, and we did it."

The offense further complicated

its problems two drives later when Wilson's pass was intercepted by Quinton Culberson. The linebacker rumbled 51 yards for the touchdown and a 14-point lead.

Right before the half, Alabama tried to convert a fourth-and-goal from the 2-yard line, but they couldn't convert. Shula said that the pass play gave Wilson five options, but after a few seconds of searching for the open receiver, Wilson tucked and ran.

The Bulldogs stopped Wilson at the goal line, leading to the 14-point halftime lead.

"We ran it on the right side with three guys," Wilson said. "They had covered the first two options, and I felt like it was time to go. I saw an opening, and I thought I could get it in there."

The Alabama defense limited Mississippi State to just 71 second-half yards, even though the Bulldogs had the ball for 17 minutes.

After driving to the 8-yard line, Alabama wasn't able to punch it in, which led to a 26-yard field goal by Christensen.

On the ensuing possession, the Tide drove to the 14-yard line before stalling, which led to a 31-yard field goal.

That was the last time Alabama would get into scoring position as Mississippi State hogged the ball for 12 minutes in the final frame.

CW/T.G. Paschal

■ MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tide tops Montevallo in exhibition game

By JESSIE PATTERSON
Sports Editor
patterson@cw.ua.edu

Alabama head basketball coach Mark Gottfried wanted to test his team against strong competition during the preseason.

A challenge from the Montevallo team, ranked second in the Division II Bulletin, was exactly what he got in Alabama's lone exhibition game.

While the Crimson Tide came away from the game with an 81-72 win over Montevallo, the 24 Tide turnovers were evidence of point guard Ronald Steele's absence.

Gottfried held Steele out of the game due to tendonitis in his right knee.

"Playing without Ron, in a way, was good for our team," Gottfried said. "It's what we needed. So we learned we have a lot of areas where we've got to get better. I think it was good for some of these young guys. People forget how young of a basketball team we are."

"Obviously, if Ron Steele plays, I don't think we have 24 turnovers."

With Steele not playing, junior transfer Mykal Riley and sophomore Brandon Hollinger shared time leading the Tide offense.

Riley had three turnovers, while Hollinger had two. Sophomore Alonzo Gee led the team in turnovers with seven.

"Alonzo really struggled with the basketball," Gottfried said. "And then it was one of those where everybody participated in the turnover frenzy. The whole team did."

Sophomore forward Richard Hendrix led the Tide offensively with 19 points and 15 rebounds.

"Richard really played

well," Gottfried said. "He rebounded well. They had a pretty hard time keeping Richard off the backboard. He bailed us out a number of times when it was poor shot selection or a turnover waiting to happen."

Gee added 17 points, while senior Jermareo Davidson scored 14.

Alabama played eight players from its 12-man roster.

"It's good for some of these young guys to get in those situations early, with the time and the score and how important a possession is at a certain point in the game," Gottfried said. "I feel like overall, there were some good things in the game tonight."

"We're going to play some teams in the month of December that won't be as good as Montevallo. They're pretty good."

Montevallo head coach Danny Young said that Alabama would be a tremendous team.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they have a shot at the national championship," he said.

"I hope we don't have to play anybody like that in our league."

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