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Shula named as option for Dolphins job

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Wednesday, January 17, 2007

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Vol. 113, Issue 69

SGA

Emergency student loans rise to \$350

Increase to help students cope with book expenses

By CHANDLER MYERS
Staff Reporter

The SGA increased the amount students can borrow from the SGA Emergency Loan program from \$300 to \$350 — but it would be hard for the SGA to give out a loan to every student at the same time, an executive SGA officer said.

Chris Lambert, SGA vice president for financial affairs,

said the SGA has about \$11,000 allocated for the SGA Emergency Loan program, but if more than 23,000 students asked for a loan on the same day, Lambert said it would cost the SGA around \$8 million.

“I do think that if there was an increase in the number of students wanting loans that the SGA, Alumni Association and student receivables would be willing to try and see that any student who wanted a loan would be able to get one,” he said.

SGA spokesman Matthew

Student loan information

- Loan amount increased from \$300 to \$350
- To qualify, full-time students have all account

balances paid off, including balances for tuition, library books and parking tickets

- Must repay loans within

one month or students will be charged \$25 and a hold could be placed on account

Lewis said the increase was approved as a way to make sure students are able to pay for things such as books, which many students often find to be expensive.

“We just thought it was important for everybody to be able to get more money, and with the price of books going up, we just thought it would help students be able to pay

for anything,” Lewis said. Students are able to take out loans more than once, he said, and any student is able to take out a loan as long as they meet requirements the SGA has set

up for the loans. To take out a loan, students must have a full-time status, which is 12 hours for undergraduates and nine hours for graduate students.

Students who want to receive a loan from the SGA Emergency Loan program must have a zero balance on their student accounts, he said. This means students must have a zero balance in library fines, parking tickets and tuition.

See **LOANS**, Page 2



CW/ T.G. Paschal

The Crimson Tide gymnastics team enters Coleman Coliseum for their season opener against the Oklahoma Sooners Friday night.

Tide vaults to victory

By DAN SELLERS
Assistant Sports Editor
■ sellers@cw.ua.edu

At the halfway point of Alabama's gymnastics meet with Oklahoma on Friday night, it wasn't looking good for the Crimson Tide.

Alabama had two gymnasts fall on the uneven bars, lost a gymnast to an anterior cruciate ligament tear and was trailing the Sooners by six-tenths of a point going into the final two events.

But that's when the momentum shifted.

The Tide outperformed Oklahoma by nearly two points in the second half of the meet to earn the 195.7-194.5 victory in front of 11,996 fans at Coleman Coliseum.

“I'm just proud that after a few bad routines on the uneven bars that our ladies held their composure,” Alabama head coach Sarah Patterson said. “We could have folded and put more pressure on ourselves on the

balance beam, but we went out and attacked the balance beam and did a great job.”

True freshman Kassi Price edged Oklahoma All-American Brittney Koncak-Schumann to win the all-around in her first collegiate event. Price's lowest score came when she posted a 9.75 on the beam, and her highest was a 9.9 on the floor exercise.

“I've never really competed in the team setting,” Price said. “There is a lot more pressure to hit your routine,

but it's so great to see the excitement from the team.”

After Brittany Magee broke the series in a mandatory leap pattern that resulted in a two-tenths point deduction on the balance beam, the Tide's routines grew better throughout the event.

Price followed Magee with a 9.75, and Ashley O'Neal and Ricki Lebegern followed with scores of 9.775. Erin Rightley scored a 9.8, and Terin

See **OKLAHOMA**, Page 5

Students react to Iraq troop surge strategy

A majority of polled students don't support Bush's plan

By ELLEN BURKE
Student Life Editor
■ burke@cw.ua.edu

A majority of polled UA students said they don't think the United States should send 20,000 more troops into Iraq, according to a non scientific poll conducted by The Crimson White.

The Associated Press reported that President Bush plans to increase the number of troops in Iraq by 21,500 to decrease the amount of violence that is currently going on in Iraq and to resecure the city of Baghdad.

In the poll of 186 students, 77 percent said they do not support Bush's plan to increase the number of troops in Iraq, while 54 percent said U.S. troops should no longer be in Iraq. A majority of students, 63 percent, said they

originally supported the war, but 72 percent said that over the years their original position on the war has changed.

The war in Iraq hits close to home for Indya Johnson, a freshman majoring in biology and pre-medical studies.

Johnson has a hard time even discussing the war because she said her father is in the military and has served overseas.

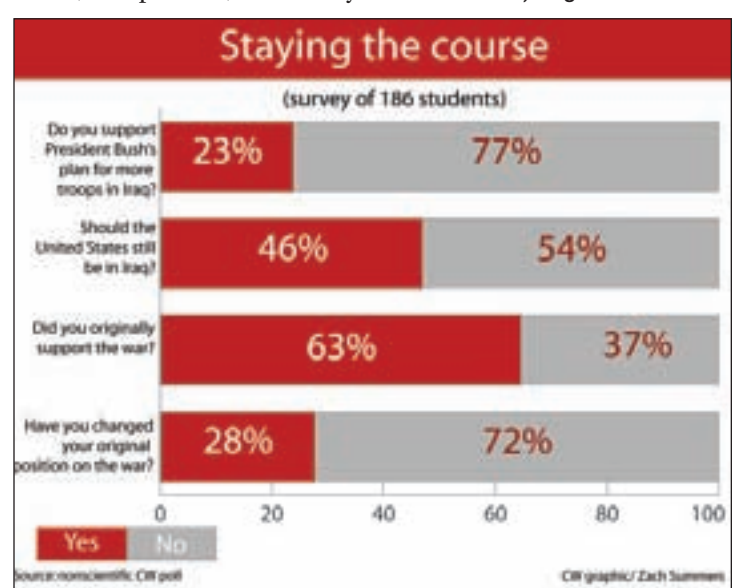
“My dad was gone for most of my senior year because he is in the Navy Reserve and went to Qatar,” she said.

Johnson said she doesn't support the president's plan to send an additional 20,000 troops into Iraq.

“I don't understand why we're sending more people over there when nothing is getting accomplished,” she said. “If we were getting results, I'd understand it.”

Johnson said she doesn't think there is anything wrong

See **TROOPS**, Page 5



New parking decks not scheduled to open until 2008

Officials say north deck potentially for residents

By KYLE GUNNELS
Staff Reporter

A new parking deck will open in 2008 on the north side of campus as part of the second phase of construction for

the Ridgcrest residence hall.

A residence hall will be built on top of the north parking deck, but it is not a part of the dormitories under construction to open this fall. Additionally, a facility on the south side of campus is slated for sometime in the future, officials said.

Designs for the north campus

deck and the dormitory have not been completed because it is not part of the first phase, and the construction cost has not been determined.

“We're finalizing the documents, and hopefully by the end of the month we will have all the designs complete to take bids from contractors,” said Tim Leopard, assistant

vice president for construction. “The preliminary foundation is already being laid now, though.”

Leopard said there would be 950 spaces in the new deck being constructed on the north side of campus.

“The parking allocation plans aren't finalized yet, but it appears the north campus

deck will be a residential zone with some visitor parking, as are in all of the decks on campus,” said Gina Johnson, director of auxiliary services.

Some commuters said they think the University also needs to consider students living off campus with the opening of the new deck.

“I understand the University

is going through growing pains, but they need to keep in mind that a lot of students don't live on campus and will continue to drive to school no matter how crowded it gets,” said Jonathan Cash, a senior majoring in environmental engineering.

See **DECK**, Page 2

IN CAMPUS brief

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Civil rights play tonight in Morgan Hall

University Programs will present the Jena Company of New York's production of "Jackie, Vi and Lena," a play about the civil rights movement and the roles played by Jackie Robinson, Viola Liuzzo and Lena Horn.

The show will take place in Morgan Auditorium at 7:30 tonight. Admission is free.

Black Belt book drive underway

The College of Human Environmental Sciences, the Community Service Center and the University Center for Economic Development are sponsoring Books for the Alabama Black Belt. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to donate new or gently used classic and award-winning books in the bins and boxes located around campus.

Monetary donations will also be accepted. For more information, please call CSC at 348-2865.

Peace Corps alumni wanted

The Community Service Center is seeking former U.S. Peace Corps volunteers to participate in a student information session Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be provided, and the session will be a great opportunity for students interested in joining the Peace Corps.

If you have been involved in the Peace Corps, contact Whitney Clearman at 348-2865 or wclearman@bama.ua.edu.

Sierra Club meeting Thursday

The West Alabama Sierra Club will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in 200 Smith Hall.

UA student members will hold a panel discussion on global warming and what people can do as individuals and as a community to reduce it. The public is invited. For more information, contact newsletter chairman Steve Ginzburg at 348-1829.

Students blog about life at UA

Bamalog journal entries show what life on UA campus is really like

By MICHELLE TANNER
Senior Staff Reporter
tanner@cw.ua.edu

Student Services here, Bryant-Denny there. Meal plan this, Bama Cash that. There's a lot to learn about the University before the first day of freshman year, but some things can't be learned from a brochure of the Capstone.

"There are so many people that work at UA that have a lot of information," said Brian Jones, a UA Web communications specialist. "But there are some things only a student can explain to another student."

With that in mind, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, in collaboration with the marketing and communications department, created Bamalog — an opportunity for a handful of select UA freshmen to keep online journals to describe their first-year experience.

Bamalogs are available through the UA Web site and are currently kept by 11

Brian DeJean



"One of the things that really caught my eye at Alabama was how much they pushed each student to attend events that at other universities would never get any attention."

Amanda Rivera



"It was a night that opened doors to many friendships and even more cultural experiences here on campus."

freshmen who write about eight entries per semester, Jones said.

"We just ask them to talk about their experiences and write with the idea that they're talking mostly to high school students who might be considering coming to school here," Jones said.

Mary Spiegel, executive director of undergraduate admissions, said Bamalog started in fall 2004. Faculty members, recruiters and counselors, she said, choose

the students who write the journal entries.

Amanda Rivera, a freshman majoring in telecommunication and film who writes entries for Bamalog, said she was recommended to write for the program by a recruiter in her hometown. Students aren't given a lot of restrictions about their entries, she said, other than a variety of aspects on campus life should

be included.

"I tend to write about programs I'm involved in or people I meet," Rivera said. "I try to include the little things you don't normally think about."

The freshmen chosen to write are given digital cameras to keep and upload pictures of their experiences, Spiegel said. Later, in their sophomore year, she said the participants are awarded a \$300 book scholarship.

Rivera said she participates in Bamalog because she wants to share her experiences at the University so that others will understand more about the Capstone.

"As a Christian, this is God's way of giving me opportunities to grow and share love and get kids to know about UA," Rivera said. "I love it here so much, but a lot of people don't know enough about Alabama."

The site for Bamalog gets about 30 visitors a day, Jones said. Jones said he thinks most who visit the site are high

See **BAMALOG**, Page 5

DECK

Continued from Page 1

Other students said there is a problem in the amount of spots available but that it might not be as bad as some make it out to be.

"I definitely think that there isn't enough parking, but after the first of the semester and people stop going to their classes, it's not so bad," said Reid Wortham, a senior majoring in geography who is a commuter.

While there are plans to build a new deck on the south side of campus that will operate as an intermodal facility helping the transit system, there are no current plans or location set.

"We want to coordinate this facility with the other University projects," Leopard said. "We don't want to make a knee-jerk reaction and just build it anywhere."

Even after the south campus facility enters the planning stage, it will still take a long time before it would be open for use, and a price would be undetermined until bids are taken from contractors, Leopard said.

LOANS

Continued from Page 1

and tuition.

If the loans are not paid back within one month, students will be charged a \$25 late fee to their account and could also have a hold placed on their account, Lewis said.

Lambert said receiving a loan isn't hard and interested students should stop by the SGA office.

"All students have to do is come to the SGA office, and there are certain people who are able to sign an approval loan; that being myself, the SGA treasurer, the SGA president or the office manager Carolyn Fulmer," Lambert said. "If no one is in the office, they can go right next door and see Katrina Smelley in the Office of Student Affairs as well."

Some students, such as Jessica Jackson, did not know the SGA approved student loans.

Jackson, a sophomore majoring in elementary education, said she would consider applying for a loan from the SGA.

In the summer, Jackson said she will take a few classes, and said she will need help with tuition because her scholarship will run out before then.

"I have not ever taken out a student loan, but I am looking to take one out for the summer," she said. "Now that I know the SGA gives out student loans, I will consider it for helping me buy books. I have to pay for a whole a semester, so I will probably look for loans at other places also."

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WEATHER



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Thursday
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Friday
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In the beginning, it was about weapons of mass destruction. Now we just need to get the job done."

— Sarah Lawrence, a freshman majoring in political science, on President Bush's order for sending 21,500 more troops to fight in Iraq. See "Students react to Iraq troop surge strategy" Page 1.

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Our View

AL Senate needs to do more

The Alabama Senate, which began its legislative session a week ago, is already sharply divided. From the more politicized 18-17 split vote that elected Democrat Hinton Mitchem president pro tem to the hard-fought 18-17 vote to end their workday Tuesday, a tone is being set for the rest of this legislative session.

The Senate's divided, with one group comprised of 18 Democrats and the other comprised of five dissident Democrats and the Senate's 12 Republicans.

Though Republicans make up about one-third of the Senate, under Democratic leadership they only make up about one-fourth of the membership of each committee.

Republicans, along with the dissident Democrats, are already promising stall tactics to stop bills they do not sponsor. This means we can expect many filibusters and not much actual work — not too much of a difference from past years. We're sure a similar attitude can be expected from the House of Representatives.

The Legislature always seems to find a way to be inept and inadequate for the Alabamians who rely so much upon the governing body's ability to produce helpful policies. We at The Crimson White are tired of the do-nothing atmosphere in Montgomery. We would really like to see something be done this year.

The legislative calendar is already a joke. Our senators and representatives normally work two days a week and only about eight weeks each year. Surely they can come together and get along for that short amount of time.

They seem to just enjoy playing the game of politics. There are more egos on the Senate floor than pieces of legislation these days.

Our Legislature has long been a national example of how business should not be run, and at some point the leadership in Montgomery is going to have to stand up and do something about it before the state can be turned around.

There are a few members of the Legislature that actually care and want to do the right thing, but they are greatly outnumbered by the others who couldn't care less about what's happening outside of the building in which they meet.

It's past time for our legislators to do something good for the people who elected them into their positions. They owe it to the state of Alabama and its residents to accomplish something this time around.

Our View is the consensus of The CW editorial board.

Letter to the Editor

Students must take responsibility

I am writing this letter in response to Sara Penrod's open letter titled "So do students even matter?" that appeared in Friday's edition of The Crimson White.

First of all, I'd like to say that I can sympathize. I'm also a National Merit finalist, and last year the University "lost" my scholarship renewal forms. I ended up having to pay a ton of fees to get my moneyback. In addition, during my freshman year, I lived in a room in New Hall that flooded every time it rained. The administration offered little to no help both times.

Such is life at a large public university. I chose the University for a variety of reasons: the location, the scholarships and the top-ranked journalism program. I didn't choose the University because I thought they'd hold my hand every step of my college career.

Yes, the mistakes are the University's fault. Yes, we all

get furious when they happen. But it's just as much our responsibility to catch those mistakes as it is the school's job to ensure they don't happen in the first place.

It's not the football team's fault either. Granted, the coach gets a lot of money, but so do we. Based on information from the UA Web site, the National Merit, Achievement and Hispanic scholars that came to Alabama in 2005 will get something in the neighborhood of \$4.5 to \$6 million before they graduate. So don't worry, they love us, too.

If your problems are being overlooked, there's a simple solution: Do something besides just crying about it.

We're adults now. If you want something done, you have to be willing to do something about it. Take some action (more action than just a letter to The CW) if you want to be more than a number. I promise you, there is a way to solve your problems.

*Misty Moon
Junior, journalism*

Iraq war tearing us apart

Exactly one week ago, President Bush went before the American people in a live television broadcast to announce his new plan for the war in Iraq. Public opinion polls have been consistently showing a decline in support for the war.

Bush is finally admitting things aren't going so well. It took almost four years of combat and more than 3,000 American military casualties for the president to figure out what millions of us have known for a long, long time — the United States needs a new strategy to win this war.

Bush's announcement of a new strategy, which calls for sending 21,500 additional troops to Iraq, comes at the same time the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, under the new leadership of chairman Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., is beginning a series of hearings on the war.

To try to improve public opinion on the war, Republicans have stooped to an all-time low.

On Thursday, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., was trying to make a valid point about looking at the Iraq war from the perspective of someone with a family member currently serving while she was questioning Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"Who pays the price?" Boxer said. "I'm not going to



Assorted Logic

Jordan Pittman
pittman@cw.ua.edu

pay a personal price. My kids are too old and my grandchild is too young. You're not going to pay a particular price, as I understand it, with an immediate family. So who pays the price? The American military and their families. And I just want to bring us back to that fact."

Somehow, Boxer's comments became terribly misconstrued. Headlines across the country read "Boxer's personal attack on Rice." White House Press Secretary Tony Snow said Boxer's comments were "a great leap backward for feminism." Other conservative commentators and bloggers even went so far as to call the senator a racist for her comments.

Now I will be the first to admit that I am probably Boxer's biggest fan. She is sometimes the lone dissenting voice, standing up for

those in America without a voice, and for that I admire her. But I would be the first to say something if I thought she, or anyone else for that matter, were making a personal attack on another public servant — especially if it were sexist or racist.

I just don't see sexism or racism in those comments. What I see is a senator who cares about her constituents — especially those with loved ones overseas in Iraq fighting an unjust war. She wasn't attacking Rice; she wasn't saying that Rice had no business making decision because of her lack of personal involvement.

The point she was making is that she, Rice and many other people making critical decisions about this war are not the ones that are going to lose loved ones. It is always important to remember that when someone goes overseas to fight for America that person isn't just another soldier. That person is someone's mother, father, daughter, son, sister, brother, husband, wife or any other loved one.

Republicans cowardly misconstrued the words Boxer said to shift the heat off of them for a little while and it's a move that was completely unfair. Boxer is the one trying to keep our military men and women from being thrown into the chaos of Iraq.

Another thing that bothered me so much about the reaction to Boxer's comments is the lack of uproar that came from comments First Lady Laura Bush made about a month ago.

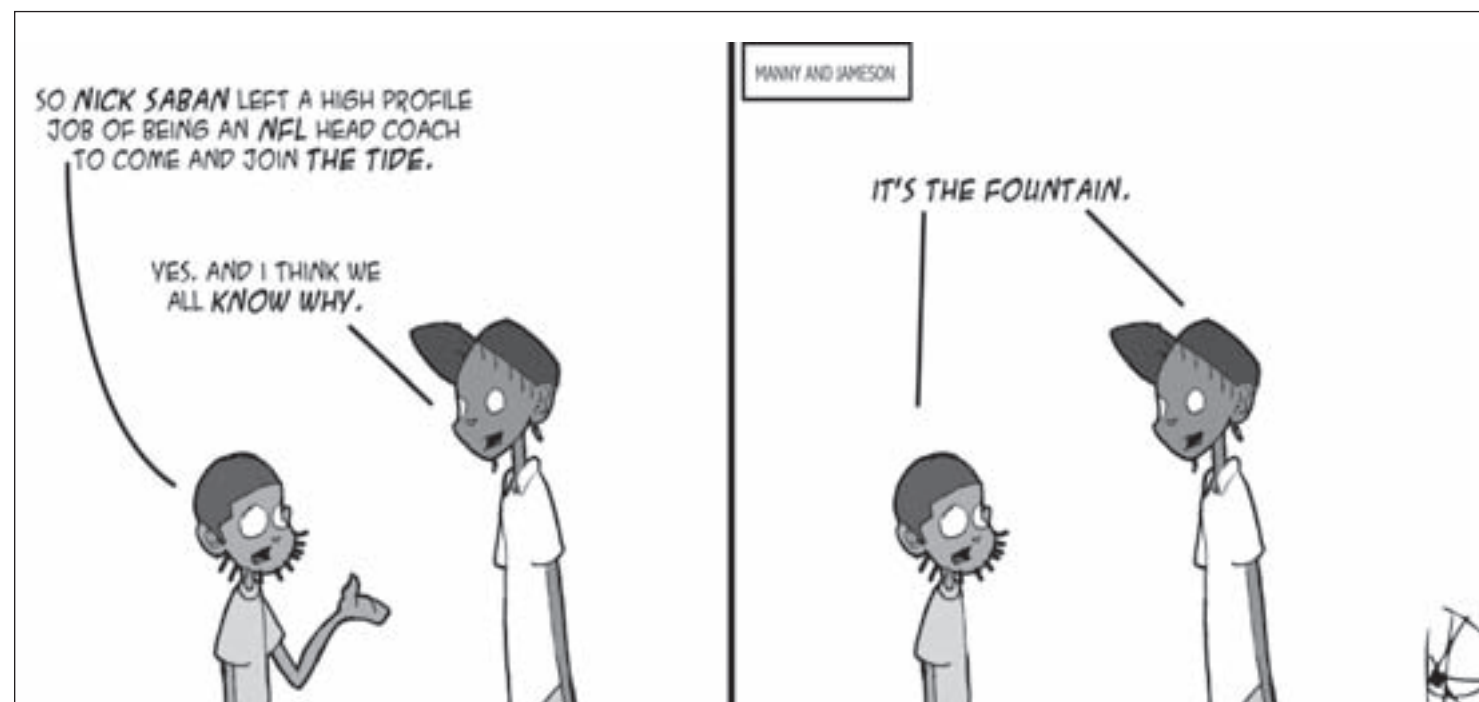
In the 2006 Year in Review edition of People Magazine, when asked about a woman being president, the first lady said, "Dr. Rice, who I think would be a really good candidate, is not interested. Probably because she is single, her parents are no longer living, she's an only child. You need a very supportive family and supportive friends to have this job."

If Boxer's comments were a personal attack, then Laura Bush's comments were equivalent to a punch in the face. It is hypocritical to crucify Boxer and not be bothered by the first lady for her words.

At any rate, it is sad that Boxer's comments even made headlines and were controversial at all. The real controversy should be the troop surge, which, according to a USA Today poll, 70 percent of Americans oppose.

Even though more and more people are opposing the war, it still remains a divisive issue, and incidents like this just make things worse.

Jordan Pittman is the opinions editor for The Crimson White. His column runs Wednesdays.



Submitted by Kevin Peterson

Tri-bins prove to be deceiving

By EMILY ROBERSON

Avid recyclers beware — the University's tri-bins for recycling are essentially trashcans with three compartments.

There are 24 tri-bins dotted throughout the campus that offer sites to deposit aluminum cans and plastic bottles for recycling. Unfortunately, the majority of empty cans and bottles wind up being picked up by grounds services instead of by a recycling company.

Students are not necessarily at fault for this poor recycling effort, however. The problem is that no one is contracted to take the plastic and aluminum items within the tri-bins to a separate location for recycling. Instead, the contents of the bins — cans and bottles included — are taken to a landfill.

To make matters worse, many students bring plastic and aluminum items that they collect in their residences to these bins with the belief

that they are doing their part in resource conservation. Little do they know that their efforts are all made in vain.

As the present situation stands, there is only one person in charge of recycling on campus. Equipped with a truck, UA staff member Steve Gregory retrieves the contents of designated recycling bins located in classrooms and administrative offices. His responsibilities do not include emptying the tri-bins.

This lack of an extensive recycling program on a campus that accommodates more than 25,000 students, faculty members and staff members is appalling. Moreover, the fact that the tri-bins are presented as a place to deposit recyclable items leads one to feel deceived about the environmental interests of this university.

A few student groups have taken efforts to improve campus-wide recycling. Recently, members of the SGA's

Environmental Concerns Committee set up a trial program to test if students would participate in dorm recycling. The placement of 10 curbside bins on loan from the City of Tuscaloosa in a hallway in Riverside's west building proved to be a success — ECC members reported that nine of the 10 rooms given a bin recycled on a regular basis.

ECC's experiment shows that students are not apathetic toward the issue of recycling. With high student participation, the University could profit from recycled items, as companies provide reimbursement for certain amounts of recyclable materials.

With this in mind, the proper collection of bottles and cans from the tri-bins and the provision of sites to deposit glass, can and plastic drink containers in places that attract large crowds — such as Coleman Coliseum and Bryant-Denny Stadium — would not only benefit the

University, but it would conserve a great deal of material and energy as well.

The problem lies in finding a reliable company to provide the pick-up service. There has been talk of negotiations with Waste Management-Recycle America. If the University does contract WMRA, the company would provide bins for all dorm rooms and additional bins for the campus, and they would pick up and pay for their contents. WMRA would also supply a compactor that would expedite the recycling process.

The use of this company would prove to be far more than a good investment — it would encourage recycling by making it an easy and convenient task. Campus recycling is a matter in which a little bit of collaborative effort would go a long way, and the sooner that effort is made, the better.

Emily Roberson is a freshman majoring in advertising.



CAMPUS CRIME REPORT

Jan. 8

1 Two faculty members in Gordon Palmer Hall reported that calculus books worth \$100 were stolen from their rooms. An additional \$400 was reported stolen from one of the faculty members.

Jan. 9

2 A Panasonic CD player and speaker system worth \$800 were stolen from a car after it was broken into outside of Bryce Lawn.

Jan. 10

3 Three faculty members reported that calculus books had been stolen from Gordon Palmer Hall. A student reported his algebraic topology book were been stolen from the same location.

4 A student reported her bike, worth \$150, was stolen outside of Julia Tutwiler Hall.

Jan. 11

5 A person was arrested for passing counterfeit money. The charges were administratively closed.



Source: UA Police Department

CMF graphic by Zach Sturmeers

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Mens, Ladies, and Children



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OKLAHOMA

Continued from Page 1

Terin Humphrey capped the beam with a 9.825.

Still trailing by .275 going into the final event, Alabama was lights out on the floor exercise. O'Neal, Lebegern and Rightley nailed 9.875s, and Price bettered that with a 9.9. Freshman Morgan Dennis put the exclamation point on the come-from-behind win with an electrifying 9.925.

Alabama found itself in a hole after some struggles on the uneven bars. Cassie Martin and Lebegern suffered falls, but things appeared to be getting better when Kaitlin White posted a 9.775.

Freshman Jacqueline Shealy followed with a good score during her first collegiate routine, but her landing was a

painful one. She landed awkwardly and tore the ACL in her right knee.

"She had a really great future," Patterson said. "And it's difficult because we are in a situation where we just don't have a lot of depth. So, you take someone of her caliber out and it's tough."

Price followed Shealy with a 9.875 on the bars, and Humphrey, an uneven bars national champion, finished off the event with a 9.925.

"I'm very proud of our freshmen, because they went out there and raised the bar for us," Humphrey said. "We had to work even harder to stay in the lineup. You have to have a starting place somewhere, and our girls did great."

No. 4 Alabama will travel to Gainesville, Fla., on Friday for a showdown with the No. 3 Florida Gators.

TROOPS

Continued from Page 1

with helping others, but there are still many unresolved issues in the United States that she said should be taken care of before helping others overseas.

While Johnson doesn't support the increase of U.S. troops in Iraq, she said she has sympathy for soldiers who have been to Iraq multiple times.

In addition to the lack of results and internal issues within the United States, Johnson said she thinks the Iraqis aren't being motivated to join their army.

"I think we should ask the Iraqis what they want us to do," she said.

Sarah Lawrence, on the other hand, said she does support the increase of troops in Iraq.

"I hate that we have to send more troops," said the freshman majoring in political science, "but they [our troops in Iraq and the Iraqi people] need help."

She said she supported the war when it began and continues to do so today.

Ryne Saxe, a sophomore majoring in physics, supports the president's plan to increase the number of troops in Iraq partly because he said he thinks new troops would be beneficial to relieve soldiers who have been in Iraq for a long time.

The increased number of soldiers in Iraq could possibly bring all U.S. troops home sooner, The Associated Press reported.

Saxe said he still supports the war, though things have changed during the past few years.

"I'm not in a position to quit in the middle," Saxe said.

Though Lawrence supports the increase of troops, she said she doesn't want the troops to be in Iraq any longer than they have to.

"In the beginning, it was about weapons of mass destruction," Lawrence said. "Now we just need to get the job done."

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BAMALOG

Continued from Page 2

school students who receive the link. Since the Bamalogs writers themselves were in high school only a year ago, they remember what it's like choosing a college and can offer the best depiction of freshman year, Jones said.

"Basically, I think it's just a chance for high school students to hear about what it's like to be an Alabama student from the position of an Alabama student," Jones said.

Students can visit the Bamalogs at bamalog.ua.edu.

Globes go for mostly predictable choices

The Golden Globes, as shrill and unappealing as ever, gave the top prizes to Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Babel" in the drama film category and Bill Condon's "Dreamgirls" in the comedy/musical category to the surprise of almost no one.

Well, to be fair, I didn't call "Babel," which received an award that in my estimation should have gone to the vastly superior "The Departed." But the fact remains that in nearly every category, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the governing body that decides the award winners, went for the obvious choices.

As expected, dramatic acting prizes went to Forest Whitaker for "The Last King of Scotland" and Helen Mirren for "The Queen." Top comedy/musical acting prizes went to Sacha Baron Cohen for "Borat" and Meryl Streep for "The Devil Wears Prada." In supporting categories, the two heavily buzzed stars of "Dreamgirls," Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson, received prizes.

And justly, the directing prize went to Martin Scorsese for "The Departed." With any luck, he'll win an Oscar as well, having yet to receive one. If he doesn't ... watch out, voting



Corey Craft

craft@cw.ua.edu

members of the Academy.

I'd love to see Scorsese's Oscar acceptance speech, though he spent most of his Globes acceptance speech talking about his great love for cinema, talking about Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger as if anyone else in the room had heard of them, or cared. This is why Scorsese is a class act: He has a great love for cinema, and he deserves every award he can receive because you can sense this love through every frame of his films, "The Departed" being no exception.

But what makes the Globes seem all the more boring is that these are the same names that have been thrown around since November. Was anyone really surprised when Whitaker and Mirren won? No, and you can expect the same results

in February at the Academy Awards. These two in particular have won nearly every significant precursor award, and it's getting to the point where there's no fun left in it.

Cohen and Streep, two deserving winners at the Globes, will suffer from the Academy's reluctance to nominate comedic performances. Streep will receive an Oscar nomination; Cohen has some stiff competition but is a dark horse candidate.

If Murphy and Hudson don't win in the same categories at the Oscars, I'll be very surprised. Hudson will walk away with the award, and deservedly so. Murphy faces some very real competition from Jack Nicholson as the crazed mob boss from "The Departed." Who doesn't love a Nicholson acceptance speech? But Murphy has a very good performance in the Best Picture frontrunner in his corner. Still, it's hard to actually imagine Axel Foley beating Nicholson in any sort of acting contest.

Supporting Actor is the only crowded category, and this is usually the time of year when I'm running around freaking out and placing bets and picking long shots. However, this year, when the winners are

almost preordained, there isn't much of a point.

Still, you'll catch me hoping for a few surprises, not the least of which is that come time for the Oscar nominations next week, "Babel" is not on the shortlist of Best Picture nominees, particularly after its underserving win at the Globes. Phil Owen, CW assistant entertainment editor, wrote a four-star review in The Crimson White of the film that is quickly rising on my list of most overrated films of the year. Needless to say, I completely disagree and would rather see

"Babel"'s likely spot go to far more deserving films. "United 93," for instance, is one of the best films of the year that absolutely no one wants to see.

On the television side of things ... well, I'm too angry to discuss it in any detail. But the only television shows I watch — "The Office," "Lost" and "24" — got the shaft. I've never actually seen "Grey's Anatomy," winner of the best drama prize, but I doubt very seriously its most recent season topped the latest season of "24." And that's why I now hate "Grey's Anatomy."

I've gone on and on about the awards, but even for the Golden Globes — the only televised awards show with an open bar as far as I know — it was curiously tame. Charlie Sheen and Tim Allen were appropriately drunk and creepy, and Hugh Laurie, winner of an acting award for "House," had a pretty good acceptance speech.

But all in all, the show wasn't worth missing the second half of "24"'s premiere. For someone who lives for awards season, that's a bit shocking for me to say.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Sixth season of '24' begins

BY MATT FERGUSON
Contributing Writer

First four hours have trademark thrills, suspense

It's January again, and everyone's favorite time-themed show since "60 Minutes" is back on the air. Of course I'm talking about Fox's masterpiece of suspense, "24," with its gruff-voiced hero Jack Bauer.

Only four hours into the new season, fans have already been bombarded with some of the most intense and emotional scenes in the series. And be warned, if you've not seen the first four hours yet, there are some minor spoilers in here.

For those left distraught over Jack's fate at season five's end, a little relief is here. Jack finally returns home, if not somewhat abruptly. There is no prologue of sorts detailing his time in China, nor does Jack reveal anything upon meeting with CTU director Bill Buchanan. I guess this is deliberate, as much more about his captivity will likely be revealed throughout the season.

Still, it quickly becomes apparent that both Jack's body and mind have undergone some rather extreme changes during his incarceration. For



Kiefer Sutherland plays Jack Bauer in "24." The show is in its sixth season.

instance, just take a quick look at his hand and you can start to imagine what the past few years (and his captors) have done to him.

What's more shocking is how Jack's behavior has changed. Fans are seeing a Jack who is beginning to question both the motives of his superiors and his own ideas of what is right and wrong when it comes to fighting terrorists. It should be interesting to see how Jack's motivation changes after the shocking end of the fourth episode, which I certainly won't give away to those who've not seen it.

One thing I'm sure is bugging

other "24" fans as much as it is me is that some old favorites have seemingly slipped under the radar thus far. Where's Audrey, for instance? What became of Mike Novick, former adviser to the president?

Of course many of the most important characters, such as Bill and Chloe, are already back in action, but sometimes it's the little characters that make the story interesting. I assume these questions too will be answered in time, but as fans know, on "24" time is the one thing you never have much of.

So far, my only complaints with this season are the lack of background on Jack's China visit and the absence of some characters, along with just how much the cast has changed since last season. Of course, nerve gas does tend to weed out the weaker cast members.

Still, there's far too much exploding going on for me to worry about those little things. It's shaping up to be a thrilling season, and there are still 20 hours left in Jack's day. And if the first four are any indication, we might be seeing Jack make some of the most difficult and shocking decisions in all of his six days on TV.

So grab a chair and lock yourselves in your rooms. "24" fans. The day's only begun.

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INbrief

from staff reports ...

UA Swimming and diving falls at Kentucky

The Alabama swimming and diving teams battled Kentucky down to the end in their first dual meets of 2007, coming up just short in Lexington, Ky.

Alabama's men fell 152-142 while the women finished 158-125. The Crimson Tide finishes out the regular season Jan. 20 in Tuscaloosa against Florida and South Carolina at 2 p.m.

Alabama's men got out of the gate fast, when sophomore Chris Perry, senior Vlad Polyakov, freshman Alin Mihalca and senior Apostolis Tsagkarakis combined to win the 200-meter medley relay with a 1:29.71 anchored by Tsagkarakis' 19.33.

Tsagkarakis also won the 50 freestyle with a 20.35, a half second ahead of the field, and the 100 freestyle with a 45.35, also by a half second margin.

Sophomore distance ace Mark Randall won both the 500 and 1650 freestyles by healthy margins. He touched the wall at 4:34.20 in the 500 and 15:44.72 in the 1650.

On the women's side freshman Agustina de Giovanni came away with a trio of individual wins and anchored the winning 400 freestyle relay. She won the 200 freestyle with a 1:50.34 and the 500 freestyle with a 4:58.57 and took the 200 IM with a 2:04.70.

Senior Victoria Genova won the 200 butterfly by more than a second and a half while junior Erin Sparks won the 200 breaststroke by 16/100ths of a second, posting a 2:21.15.

■ FOOTBALL

Saban's staff gets Major addition

By DAN SELLERS
Assistant Sports Editor
■ sellers@cw.ua.edu

Alabama Football head coach Nick Saban is close to finalizing his coaching staff as five new assistants were announced over the weekend.

Among those is former University of Texas quarterback Major Applewhite. Applewhite comes to the Capstone from Rice University, where he was the offensive coordinator.

Joining Applewhite over the weekend as coaching additions were Ron Middleton, Steve Marshall, Bo Davis and Burton Burns.

Saban has not announced the duties of any assistant coaches at this time.

Applewhite, who was the youngest offensive coordinator in college last season, orchestrated a spread option attack that broke numerous school records at Rice. Applewhite has also served as quarterbacks coach at Syracuse in 2005, and he was a graduate assistant at Texas for two years.

As a quarterback at Texas, Applewhite set school records for passing yards, passing touchdowns and total offense.

Middleton comes to Alabama after two seasons as tight ends coach and assistant special teams coach with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Prior to his NFL stint, Middleton spent five sea-

sons at Ole Miss. Under his tutelage, Ole Miss kicker Jonathan Nichols won the 2003 Lou Groza Award.

Marshall, who spent the 2006 season out of football, was formerly the offensive line assistant for the Houston Texans. Marshall also spent four seasons at Colorado under Gary Barnett.

Davis makes the trek to Alabama from the Miami Dolphins, where he was assistant strength and conditioning coach and assistant defensive line coach under Saban.

Davis also spent three years at LSU as the strength and

conditioning coach under Saban and one year under current Tigers coach Les Miles.

Burns, who was the running backs coach for Clemson, was officially added to Saban's staff on Tuesday. Burns coached Clemson backs C.J. Spiller and James Davis, who combined to rush for more than 2,000 yards in 2006.

Burns also brings strong ties to the state of Louisiana. He

was a successful high school coach for 10 years in the state at schools in New Orleans and Shreveport. Burns was on Tommy Bowden's staff at Tulane in 1993 before he followed Bowden to Clemson.

Saban's coaching staff now consists of 10 assistants. The five aforementioned coaches join Kevin Steele, Lance Thompson, Joe Pendry, Todd Alles and Kirby Smart on staff in Tuscaloosa.

Check www.cw.ua.edu for sports updates.

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■ **MEN'S BASKETBALL**

Alabama travels to Vandy

By **JESSIE PATTERSON**
Sports Editor
jpatterson@cwua.edu

After downing LSU last week, the Alabama men's basketball team jumped four spots in the polls to move up to No. 10 in The Associated Press rankings and No. 9 in the ESPN/USA Today poll with a game at Vanderbilt looming Wednesday night.

Alabama head coach Mark Gottfried said the match-up would be a big challenge for the Crimson Tide.

"Vanderbilt is a very good team, and it's a tough place to play," Gottfried said.

"We know that. I think the

way they're playing with four perimeter players this year, that's going to pose a lot of problems for us guarding them. Our guys are excited about that type of a challenge that we're looking at on Wednesday night."

Alabama hasn't played since the win over LSU on Jan. 9. Gottfried said the time off from playing has helped give players some rest.

"We tried to rest our guys a little bit and get them healed up," he said.

"We're trying to find a good balance. You do want to work them a little bit. I think we found that the last

five or six days."

Junior point guard Ronald Steele also said the off-week-end helped Alabama.

"I think that helps us a lot, especially for the guys who have little injuries," he said. "And it gives us a chance to work on some things that we really need to work on. So I think it's been a good thing to have a few extra days in between games. We needed it."

Vanderbilt plays a guard-heavy offense, starting four guards, which Gottfried said is something Alabama doesn't usually see.

"They've got four knock-down shooters that can really shoot it," he said.

"They're all doing a good job of executing their offense."

Steele said Vanderbilt's different style makes them tough to guard.

"I know they're playing a little different this year than what they were playing when we played them last year, but it's not anything normal in the SEC — a different style," Steele said.

"They can really shoot the ball and they are really well coached, so it's just tough to guard them."

Redshirt freshman Greg Cage will play against his older brother, Vanderbilt starting senior guard Dan Cage, for the first time in his collegiate career in the game.

"I'm looking forward to going up and seeing a lot of my family at the game," Cage said.

"A lot of them haven't gotten the chance to see us play yet, so it'll be fun to finally have them get the chance to see us play and it'll be fun to get to play against my brother. I think the whole

immediate family is going to be there."

Cage said it will be different when he plays against his brother.

"I went to their game last week, and I was sitting there realizing I was rooting for them to do well, and I realized a week later I was going to have to be rooting against them," he said.

"So it's different to have to be on the other side from them. But it's a lot of fun at the same time."



CW/ T.G. Paschal

Alabama center Jermareo Davidson goes up for a shot against Glen Davis in the Tide's win over LSU. Alabama faces Vanderbilt at 7 p.m.

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Welcome Coach Saban!

INbrief

from combined reports ...

E.J. Junior selected for Senior Bowl Hall of Fame

Former Alabama All-American and NFL veteran E.J. Junior is one of three members that will comprise the 2007 Senior Bowl Hall of Fame class.

Junior will be joined by Jake Plummer (Arizona State) and Hines Ward (Georgia) at this year's induction ceremony. The trio will be formally inducted during a reception at The Country Club of Mobile on Friday, Jan. 26.

All three inductees will also be introduced to the crowd during pre-game ceremonies prior to the 2007 Under Armour Senior Bowl game set for Ladd-Peebles Stadium on Jan. 27.

"When you consider that our Hall of Fame represents just the top two percent of the over 4,000 outstanding collegiate and NFL stars who have played in the Senior Bowl since 1950, it puts into perspective just how special this group really is," said Senior Bowl President Steve Hale.

Established in 1988, the Senior Bowl Hall of Fame, sponsored by Regions Bank and Mobile Gas, seeks to pay tribute to the many former Senior Bowl players, coaches and administrators who have made lasting contributions to the game of football.

Junior brought his talents to the 1981 Senior Bowl following a stellar Crimson Tide career during which he was part of two national championship teams, was the SEC Defensive Player of the Year and a finalist for the Lombardi Trophy in 1980.

Selected by the St. Louis Cardinals with the fifth overall selection of the first-round in the 1981 NFL Draft, he went on to enjoy a 13-year NFL career with the Cardinals, Dolphins, Buccaneers and Seahawks. A two-time Pro Bowl selection with the Cardinals, he was regarded as one of the game's best linebackers and top pass rushers throughout his career and was named to the first-ever All-Madden team.

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Shula a candidate in Miami

Shula interviews for post left open by Nick Saban

By STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The latest candidate to emerge for the Miami Dolphins' coaching job has a big edge in name recognition: He's a Shula.

Mike Shula interviewed for the job Saturday, a person familiar with the team's search said Tuesday. The per-

son requested anonymity because the Dolphins have declined to identify candidates.

Shula's dad, Don, coached the Dolphins for 26 years, holds the NFL record with 347 victories and is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Hiring the younger Shula would mean a swap of coaches with Alabama. He was fired by the Crimson Tide in November and replaced

by Nick Saban, who left the Dolphins on Jan. 3 after two seasons.

Two other candidates have interviewed with Miami twice: former Atlanta Falcons coach Jim Mora and Georgia Tech coach Chan Gailey. Management met with 12 coaches during the first round of interviews, which ended Jan. 10.

The 41-year-old Shula went 26-23 in four years at Alabama, but 0-4 against SEC

rival Auburn. The Tide fired him after they went 6-6 during the 2006 regular season.

Shula said he left Alabama in better shape than the program he inherited, which was weakened by NCAA sanctions.

Shula was a Dolphins ballboy when his dad coached the team. He has spent 15 years as an NFL assistant, most recently from 2000 to 2002 as Miami's quarterbacks coach.

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 8 Moistened periodically
 14 Utopian garden
 15 Hole-making tool
 16 To some extent
 17 "Too Proud to Beg"
 18 Even score
 19 Thelma's partner
 20 Spearheaded
 21 Planted explosive
 22 Sang merrily
 23 Decisive moment
 26 Morsel for Mr. Ed
 27 Jazz enthusiast
 28 Louis of boxing
 31 Reuben shop
 33 Film award
 36 Actor Damon
 37 Black Sea arm
 38 Bawl out
 39 "Do ___ others..."
 40 Strongly advise
 41 Closing measures
 42 Light gas
 43 Wide inlet
 44 Young seal
 45 Pers. pension
 46 Star spotters
 52 Kind of cat
 55 One woodwind
 56 Full-house sign
 57 Deep red gem
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Congratulations to Jimmy LeCroy

for winning the MS State Tickets. Also congrats to the students who brought the puzzle in before Friday at 5pm. It was a really challenging puzzle
 Simonne Maj Hammarquist
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Questions?
Dave Brewer
205.348.6071
dave.brewer@ua.edu

