Crimson L

Friday, January 9, 2009

Serving the University of Alabama since 1894

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MAP to charge to unlock cars

Technology difficult to bypass without professional assistance

> By Patty Vaughan Contributing Writer

Students who locked their keys in their car were never a problem for the Motorist Assistance Program (MAP), but due to advanced technology, it can now cost a great deal to get

damaging the cars has gotten too high for MAP, said Ronnie Robertson, director of Transportation Services. "Vehicles that students and faculty bring on campus have

With the technical advancements in cars, the price of

become more complicated, so the locking systems on the vehicles become almost impossible to unlock," Robertson said. MAP has teamed up with two new vendors to be able to

unlock cars, Robertson said. However, since they are now working with professionals there is a fee of \$45 in order to get "We regret that there is a fee, but that is what the profession-

als charge. It will be cheaper for the individual in the long run because of the damage occurring to get into the car through just MAP," Robertson said. Before the holiday break, MAP decided to carry out the pro-

cess of finding professional locksmiths to unlock cars around campus. Robertson added that this had been an ongoing situation that needed to be rectified. Robertson said, if one person comes to MAP to unlock their

car, they will immediately get on the phone with the professional locksmith and try to locate where the car is and what kind of car the person owns. We make sure that contact is made with the owner of the

vehicle and the professional before we get off the telephone," Also, if it is after hours, MAP will request for security sourc-

s to accompany the owner of the vehicle and wait for the lock-

Robertson wanted to emphasize the service of MAP will remain the same for students and staff, even though they cannot physically unlock cars anymore.

Students, faculty and staff on campus may contact MAP at 348-0121 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday) or 348-5454 (4:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. weeknights and weekends) for free motorist assistance if you need to have a battery jumped, have run out of gas or need air in your tires.

Web Exclusive

Lifesouth seeks donors for awareness month

By Christy Roach

January is not only the kick off of a new semester at the University of Alabama, but this month has been deemed Blood Donor Awareness month.

Ashley Smith, a district director at Lifesouth said that only one in 10 Americans donate blood regularly. She said 60 percent of the population is eligible to donate blood, but of that only five percent do.

For the rest of this story, check out: www.cw.ua.edu

Today's paper



UA weather

58º/29º Saturday

Thundersforms

Sunday Clear

52º/29º

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The Crimson White

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GYMNASTICS



Junior Ricki Lebegern is one of 11 returning gymnasts for Alabama this season. In addition to Lebegern, a three-time SEC Champion, the sixth-ranked Crimson Tide also returns three other Junior All-Americans.

Gymnasts open season at Auburn

By Jason Galloway Senior Sports Reporter

As the gymnastics edition of the Iron Bowl kicks off the Crimson Tide's season today, recurrent adversity will, one way or the other, be overcome.

Auburn's hardships are perhaps more obvihas planted a choke hold on the Tide's in-state rival since coaches David and Sarah Patterson took over the Alabama program in 1979.

For the Tide, the nagging disappointment of ending last season with two falls on the balance beam at the NCAA Championships combined with numerous preseason injuries to start this year leave preseason No. 6 Alabama with something to prove as well.

Of the three gymnasts who produced top-8 individual finishes at the NCAA Championships ous, as the Tigers will attempt to snap the infa- last season, one of them is out, and another mous 95-meet losing streak to Alabama that will be limited for the Tide's opening meet with Auburn.

See **GYMNAST**, page 6

Parking facility coming on time

By Drew Taylor Senior Staff Reporter

Construction on Tuscaloosa's new intermodal facility has been on schedule, despite a few days of rainy weather, said City Engineer Joe Robinson, and most of the structural concrete work has already been com-

The facility, which began construction in April, will attempt to fix the parking problem that many Tuscaloosans deal with on a daily basis, in addition to catering to University stu-

parking spaces, including some reserved areas on the ground floor. With this exception, the rest will be free to the public. There will also be driveways for pickup on the west side of

The facility will feature 460

the facility, in addition to a possible shuttle bus from the facility to the AmTrak railroad station, located at 2105 Greensboro

Robinson said that the ground floor would have office space for the Tuscaloosa Parking and

See **PARKING**, page 2



CW | Drew Hoover The intermodal facility at 23rd Ave and 6th St. remains under construction.

Bryce patient's art shown nationally

By Victor Luckerson Staff Writer

At nearby Bryce Hospital lives a man who has called Bryce home for more than half a century, who has created

art that has been featured at

a national museum and who

United States.

Frank Calloway is a resident at the Alice Kidd Nursing Facility located at Bryce Hospital. According to general hospital records, Calloway was born July 2, 1896, which would may be the oldest man in the However, no birth certificate of Mental Health

exists to prove Calloway's age Mental Retardation. and recently people claiming The details of to be Calloway's relatives have asserted that the man is in his

"Mr. Calloway's official age is unconfirmed," said make him 112 years old and the John Ziegler, a spokesman oldest person in the country. for the Alabama Department

The details of Calloway's younger days are hazy. His father worked on a railroad while his mother was a very skilled quilt maker. Calloway came to Bryce Hospital in 1952 He enjoyed farm work and

See CALLOWAY, page 2

BCS National Championship



Florida's Major Wright (21) hits Oklahoma's Manuel Johnincomplete pass during the first quarter of the BCS Championship NCAA college football game Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009, in Miami. The Gators won their second BCS Championship in three years 24-14 over the Sooners.

Januray 9, 2009

 UA School of Music presents a piano solo competition for junior high and senior high students — Moody Music Building

SATURDAY

Scheduled power outage

SUNDAY

- "BRAVO": Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra's Tribute to John S. Bickley, with cellist Tsuyoshi Tsitsumiat — 2 p.m., Moody Music Building
- Men's Basketball vs. LSU 12:30 p.m., Coleman Coliseum

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements and campus news to cwnews@sa.ua.edu

Power outage scheduled for north campus on Saturday

The power to Blount Hall, Paty Hall, Ridgecrest North, Palmer Hall, Somerville Hall and the Ferguson Parking Deck will be shut down in order to perform necessary maintenance on Saturday and again on Jan. 17. Both outages will begin at 6:30 a.m. and end at approximately 3 p.m.

CW now hiring copy editor

A paid copy editor position is now available at The Crimson

White. Applicants must have detailed knowledge of AP style and current events and must be willing to work two nights a week. Please contact Chief Copy Editor Kelli Abernathy at klabernathy@bama.ua.edu for more information.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The number one reason people said they do not donate [blood] is because they have never been asked."

— Ashley Smith, a district director at LifeSouth

BIRTHDAYS

Eric McHargue, a sophmore

Cara Walls, a senior majoring in english

THIS DAY IN ALABAMA HISTORY

January 9, 1965: The battleship USS Alabama is dedicated in Mobile as a World War II memorial. Commissioned in August 1942, the Alabama served primarily in the Pacific, earning nine battle stars. She was awarded to the state in 1964 through the efforts of the USS Alabama Battleship Commission, and since her dedication has become a primary Mobile tourist attrac-

Source: Alabama Department of Archives and History

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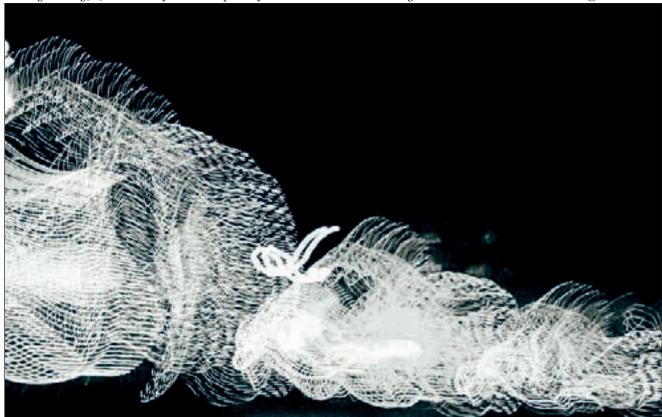
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1,000 WORDS

Every Friday, 1,000 Words features a photo from around the University. Send submissions to cwnews@sa.ua.edu.



CW | Marion Walding

A Chernabog float heads down Main Street USA during Disney's Spectromagic parade at the Magic Kingdom in

Transit Authority, serving as their administrative headquarters. Currently, the Tuscaloosa Transit Authority is located at 2450 Hargrove Road E. Jimmy Cain, transit manager for the Tuscaloosa Transit Authority, said the old site will be used for maintenance work in the future.

Cain said there are currently five routes the Transit Authority uses, with about 23 bus stops per route.

On Monday, a new route to Stillman College was added. All routes will lead to the new facility upon its completion.

In an interview with The Crimson White in October, Robinson said the city was in negotiations with First Transit, the transit company that owns the CrimsonRide, of extending its route to the new facility. Recently, no definite actions have been announced yet.

"I'm hopeful that we can reach some agreement with them on providing a bus connection to the city," Robinson

The facility's budget is estimated at \$13 million, fund-Authority.

Robertson said rainy weather over the last week has not been an issue for construction crews, since most of the recent work has been internal, focusing on making the office space as nice as possible. In addition, Robinson said that construction has already begun on an overhead walkway over 6th Street, which will connect to an additional walkway leading to city hall.

There will also be a fair amount of landscaping that will be done around the facility in the upcoming months, in addition to current construction on brick walls that will be placed on the structure for decorative purposes, also called the "skin."

In addition to office space on the ground floor, there will be two retail spaces on the east side of the facility. In Robinson has held meetings Tuesday's city council meetof these spaces. Henson, sometime in April. who also owns the Northport Diner, said that having a restaurant in the facility was an opportunity he couldn't

"This location is right in ed by the Federal Transit the middle of it all," Henson said, describing the amount of construction going on in downtown Tuscaloosa. "In the next five years, there's going to be a lot of good stuff happening downtown and I just wanted to be a part of

Henson said he still isn't sure what type of restaurant "It will be a restaurant, but

it is going to be a surprise because I don't even know what it's going to be," Henson There will be a 60-day peri-

od for Henson to present his concept plan to the city council, where he said he will use that time to talk to various people, see what the competition is in the area, in addition to bringing in a consulting firm from Virginia to assist him in the process. Henson, who has been in Tuscaloosa for nearly 25 years, will also be opening a restaurant in with Ronnie Robertson, UA ing, Cypress Inn restaurant Montgomery called Big Easy director of transportation, but owner Drew Henson was Po'boy Shop, a Cajun-themed named as one of the tenants restaurant, scheduled to open

> The facility, in addition to Diner and the 15th Street Henson's restaurant, is slated for an opening sometime in August or September.

Crime Report

Compiled by Drew Taylor Senior Staff Reporter

10 a.m. at 2500 Woodland Road

JAN. 2

JAN. 3

· Harassment occurred at

·-Criminal Mischief occurred at 10:05 a.m. at B.B. Comer · Burglary 3 occurred at

3:30 p.m. at Rose Towers

- Burglary 3 occurred at 12:15 p.m. at Rose Towers
- · Burglary 3 occurred at 6 p.m. at Hackberry Highlands

JAN. 5

· Burglary 3 occurred at 11:40 a.m. at Hackberry Highlands.

JAN. 6

· Public Intoxication occurred at 1:39 a.m. at BP on the Strip

JAN. 7

- · Criminal Mischief occurred at 10:40 a.m. at the ten Hoor Parking
- Theft 3 occurred at 5 p.m. at Hackberry Highlands · Criminal mischief occurred at
- 6:30 p.m. at Paty Hall
- Theft 2 occurred at 9:10 p.m. at
- Burke West
- · Criminal Mischief occurred at 6:30 p.m. at Paty Hall



Submited photo

Frank Calloway draws at Bryce Hospital.

CALLOWAY Continued from page 1

gardening on the hospital's property, but eventually found his true passion in drawing. "He'd just sit at a table

enjoys it very much." For five to seven hours each day, ball point pens, crayons

and draw," Ziegler said. "He

and magic markers became Calloway's artistic tools as he drew landscape murals across large expanses of butcher paper. "He uses very bright colors," Ziegler said. "Horses

and cows will be yellow and orange and red." Calloway's drawings consistently depict an antiquated past with items such as pot-

belly stoves and old-fashioned

trains. "They're all from a perspective years and years ago," said Zondra Taylor Hutto, Calloway's legal guardian. "People that like folk art are particularly caught by it."

Calloway uses mathematics as a basis for his drawings. When he begins a piece, he draws a grid on his mural and places numbers into each box. "To the average person it looks like random numbers," Ziegler said.

However, the numbers have a meaning for Calloway. He uses the grid to plan out

— for example, a 98 in a box ply being a good person and

might mean that a stairwell

structing something," Ziegler to us all."

The art first gained fame at a special exhibit for the mentally ill at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts seven years ago. "[The Department of

Mental Health] recognized a few years ago they had a very talented individual in Mr. Calloway," Ziegler said. Calloway's art has also been featured at the state capitol

and at the Kentuck Festival of

the Arts in Northport.

In 2008, thirty of Calloway's pieces were accepted into the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, where they will be on display for a year in an exhibit entitled "Marriage of Science and Art." Calloway was able to make the trip to Baltimore for the exhibit opening and enjoy his first airplane flight. Calloway continues to draw

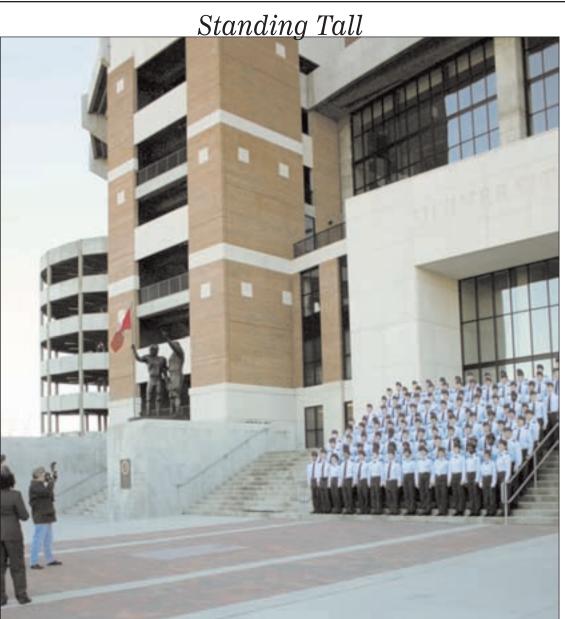
regularly. Hutto said it was remarkable to see a person pursue their dreams the way Calloway has, regardless of age and circumstance. "He is the most gentle man I've ever met," Hutto said.

"He's always got a smile and a chuckle." According to Ziegler, the artist has said that the the amount of each material secret to a long life is sim-

working hard.

"We just hope that people will focus on his talent," ber of materials he's going to Ziegler said. "He's a remarkuse as if he's literally con- able man and a great example

will have 98 steps. "He pre-calculates the num-



Members of the Air Force ROTC class "Air Force Leadership Laboratory" pose for a portrait outside of the Bryant-Denny Stadium Thursday afternoon.

GRE, LSAT loom

University helps students with exams

By Patty Vaughan Contributing Writer

The GRE and the LSAT exams can be extremely daunting for students preparing to take them, however, the University has provided assistance to enable students to be well prepared physically and mentally for these exams.

The graduate school has teamed up with Kaplan, a testing service, to help students at the University.

According to Williams, the Director of Graduate Admissions, Kaplan comes on campus in February and will do free practice testing for the GMAT, GRE and the LSAT. There is a prediction of probably about 500 to 600 students who will attend the practice sessions, Williams said.

"We encourage students to take the practice exams before, maybe take it junior year so they can retest in time so they don't miss any deadlines," Williams said.

September, the graduate school also puts on preview day and there is a special session on preparing for the exams, Williams said. They offer a seminar and encourage every student to take a preliminary free practice exam for each test. Each test is scored and evaluated, and each student is contacted with tips on what they need to focus on to do better.

"We don't want students to wait. They may have to retest and they should always take a test three to four months in advance just in case," Williams said.

The Center for Teaching and Learning also provides videos, guides and books for students to practice with.

Through the center, Richard Livingston, assistant director of learning enhancement for the Center for Teaching and Learning, also provides a seminar every semester to prepare for the MAT.

"Students need to learn to practice for the test and be able to not waste time and finish the test, and be confident that they're pacing themselves correct- out when exams are being ly. They'll do 20 percent given call (205) 348-6760.

better," Williams said.

Advisors will help students by giving them guidelines on practicing, giving them practice materials and advising them to go to the graduate offices for more help. They also advise them to go to the Center of Teaching and Learning for more assistance.

"Some students want to take the test to get scholarships or fellowships. There is always a reason to take the tests," Williams said.

According to Williams, students need to contact testing services on campus to find out when each test is given early in their junior year to prepare for the exams in order to be on time for applying to graduate schools.

"Practice for the test and finish on time, spot trick questions because that's where you get the edge. Students need to practice, practice, practice," Williams said.

To learn more about when the practice tests are available, one can contact 1-800-CAPTEST to find out more information. Also, to contact testing services to find

Students meet Ron Paul over break

By Kellie Munts Contributing Writer

At 10 a.m. on Dec. 29, a group of UA students entered the office of former presidential-hopeful Ron Paul, unsure of exactly what to expect from their visit with the famous politician.

Bradford Patterson, a senior majoring in economics and philosophy, said he has been impressed by Ron Paul's consistent values since December

When a friend suggested driving to Clute, Texas, the location of Paul's Foundation for Rational Economics and Education office, Patterson didn't hesitate to make the call. A few short weeks later, Patterson found himself sitting directly across from a

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet an honest politician and have him tell you the truth, even if it hurts.

man renowned for his policies

-Jared Vaughn, a junior majoring in geology

and political opinions.

"We were the ones making the meeting formal because we were all so nervous, but he kept it really casual by asking questions about where we were from, and what we were interested in," Patterson said.

We've got the

was thrilled to have the opportunity to meet Paul.

opportunity to meet an honest politician and have him tell you the truth, even if it hurts," Vaughn said.

In a situation that could possibly become overwhelming, Patterson said he felt completely at ease.

"You'd really think that it would be a larger than life experience because he's on TV all the time, but he's a really personable guy," Patterson

In addition to the personal conversations the group had with Paul during their visit, they were also able to out of the woodwork who have talk to him about his role in never been involved politicalthe political world. The con- ly who support what Ron Paul sistency Patterson said he stands for," Patterson said. had always been impressed "Politics can tend to be a chawith remained obvious dur- rade, but he's proven himself ing their meeting with Paul, because he has a long track

Patterson said. Patterson said the group people trust what he says." he went with wasn't the only group of people interested in enced by his experience in meeting with Paul. Patterson said the reason there are daily requests for meetings

with Paul is very clear. me to him is simple. He's prin-because he has basically cipled, and there's no other candidate in the election who has been more consistent in their beliefs," Patterson said.

Patterson said he thinks setting.' there have been a lot of hypocritical tendencies in the in the Texas congress, and Jared Vaughn, a junior political world, but he strong- shows no signs of leaving

giance to his beliefs. Because of Paul's strength in his "It's a once in a lifetime opinions, Patterson said he believes that many formerly

> "It's amazing. He's 72 and that's very old by most people's standards. But he's so animated because he loves what he does, and I think that's what helps keep people young."

-Bradford Patterson, a senior majoring in economics and philosophy

politically apathetic citizens have been encouraged to take

"There are people coming record, and because of that

Vaughn said he was influmeeting Paul because of the impact Paul had on his politi-

"The highlight of the trip "The thing that attracted was meeting him face to face shaped my political views at this moment," Vaughn said. "It was great to be one-on-one with him in a non-political

Paul continues to serve

LP you need!

majoring in geology, said he ly believes Paul has an alle- the political arena in the near impacted him in many ways, future. Patterson said he is impressed with Paul's vitality and passion to continue working toward his political goals.

"It's amazing. He's 72 and that's very old by most people's standards. But he's so animated because he loves what he does, and I think that's what helps keep people young," Patterson said.

He said he thinks his opportunity to meet Paul greatly

and the trip only confirmed his favorable opinions about the political leader.

"I was able to connect what I've seen in the news to reality. It was interesting to stop and think that he's made an entire career out of politics," Patterson said. "He stands for what he believes but is willing to not get elected rather than say something he doesn't stand

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ANATOMY

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MCT Campus

Dire predictions for 2009

We've done a number of "9 for '09" stories lately, and I'm going to shamelessly use that same format this week. Maybe it's a bit tired, but I'm frankly too busy to do something else, so you'll just have to deal. Anyway, these are my various and sundry predictions and projections for 2009.

• The economy. Stop deluding yourselves. It will not get better, and that's assuming it won't get any worse. There is a great deal of instability in the world right now, and with Russia closing off natural gas supplies to Europe energy costs are likely to continue to rocket upwards. You know, kind of like the opposite of what the stock markets are doing.

· Barack Obama. His first year begins in few days, and already I can't stand him. Don't get me wrong, I couldn't stand him during the election, either, but now we're starting to see visible evidence of his ineptitudes as he reveals his tax plan (which many Democrats in the Senate oppose) and his cabinet positions, offering the Surgeon General's job to a glorified TV doctor from CNN of all places.

· Gas prices. Enjoy them while they stay this low, because it won't be lasting long. Seriously, fill up every time you leave campus, because before too long OPEC is going to realize they can gouge us for \$4 a gallon again. All they have to do is reduce production, and suddenly I'm back to paying \$45 to fill up my Ford Focus.

• Russia. We've arrived. Now that Russia is about done backsliding as far as they can without resurrecting Stalin, they've decided to engage in aggression of the sort the world hasn't seen from a major power since the



Paul Thompson

Vietnam War. Just look at this summer's invasion of Georgia and Dmitriy Medvedev's willingness to carry out the will of Stal — I mean Putin.

• The Middle East. You can keep on wishing for "peace in the Middle East" all you want, but I have news for you — it isn't going to happen in 2009, 2010, or ever, but I digress ... War has been waged in that part of the world since before the Crusades, though modern problems can be largely traced back to the Christian Crusades during the middle ages. Chalk another one up for Christian wisdom, I

• The state of American celebrity politics. It's a sad one, too. After the election of popular celebrity candidates like Barack Obama and Al Franken, my hopes couldn't be lower for government. Something is wrong, and my bet is that it's the common person's obsession with sounding smarter than they actually are. Celebrities don't belong in political office, (with a few exceptions like Ronald Regan and Arnold Schwarzenegger) so why is it that some people just can't wait to vote the bungling excuses for politicians into office?

 The State of Americans. In my political science class on public opinion yesterday, we discussed the fact that people lie in surveys to make themselves look better than they actually are. The unwashed electorate also frequently answers questions about candidates they don't even know and give opinions on fictitious laws. Meanwhile, Jon Stewart and Comedy Central see high ratings as people turn to comedians for their news. I guess electing Franken wasn't such a bad idea after all. Oh,

 Corruption. How pleasant, right? Rod Blagojevich's attempt to sell Obama's vacated Senate seat is a classic move. Typical Democratic behavior, to be sure, but it does call into question Obama's involvement.

· Alabama football. At least everything won't be well on its way to Hell in the proverbial hand basket. We do have next year's team to look forward to. With a bit of luck, we can reasonably hope for the same degree of success that we saw this year, perhaps with a better performance in a bowl game, you know, but Dave has more

on that this week. All in all, I don't have high hopes for 2009. I could be as wrong about all this as everyone else who has thrown in his own two cents, but I doubt it. At least I'm not setting myself (or you, for that matter) up for disappointment. Call me what you please, but mark my words, I'm probably more correct than my optimistic friends.

Paul Thompson is the Opinions Editor of The Crimson White. His column runs on Fridays.

SECond to Utah

I'm going to play devil's advocate today, and I fully expect this to rake in added hate mail besides the normal stuff my adoring fans send. Let's use a little of that 20/20 hindsight and look at the Nick Saban era of Bama football.

Season uno started off promising, even with the squeaker of a loss to Georgia in overtime. Then, we proceeded to go into a nosedive at the end of the season that would have made the Mets jealous. It's OK, though; we salvaged the disappointing season with a win in the Independence Bowl over Colorado. Keep in mind, the Independence Bowl is just a step above the Jim's Transmission Bowl and Comic Extravaganza.

We all chalked it up to the first year in a new system with a new coach, and that's acceptable. In the off season, however. Saint Nick showed us what he's made of and raked in the No. 1 recruiting class that made us reminiscent of a certain houndstooth hat.

Season two kicked off and no one was counting us in the little national title race. After all, we had just lost our top two wide receivers and a plethora of defensive playmakers. We say screw that and roll off an improbable 12 straight wins, including five weeks ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Here's where the hindsight



Dave Folk

comes in: we were overrated all season long, and it shows in the clinic Utah put on us in the Sugar bowl. Before you start throwing bricks through my window, hear me out. I bleed crimson and white just like the rest of you.

Look at all of our marquee wins throughout the season and you'll find that while at the time it looked like we were giant killers, after all was said in done those wins should have been

That dominating win over Clemson just started what was a disaster of a season for them and led to baby Bowden being kicked out like a pregnant teen-

The funeral we gave Georgia only carried on when they barely beat cellar-dweller Tennessee and the disgrace of a football team Auburn allowed on the-

Let's not forget about the runs on Fridays.

keep in mind the next week the Tigers pulled one out against Troy. Pulling one out against Troy is like barely beating one of Michael Vick's pitbulls in a footrace. It just shouldn't be a competition.

By the end of the season our strength of schedule was 72nd out of the 120 teams in the Football Bowl Series according to ESPN. That was a full ten spots behind Utah's rolling into the Sugar Bowl. It was great to see an undefeated regular season, and surely that's something that rarely happens in a Big Six conference, but maybe our wins weren't that great of wins after all. I mean, after the bowl games are all said and done, it looks like our best win this season will have been Ole Miss.

Need further proof that maybe we weren't as good as we all thought? Think about this: What do we have to show for this great season? Nothing. No SEC championship, no national title and no Sugar Bowl trophy will rest in our cases. Granted, the memories will last a lifetime, but it might appear our only notable accomplishment was losing to (place outcome of BCS championship here) Florida and Utah, who should have played in the National Championship.

Dave Folk is a news editor for The Crimson White. His column

Bama Dining still has issues

By Sean Randall

Some of you may know I do a biweekly column in the Lifestyles section reviewing on-campus dining. I was supposed to write this week's column about Bryant Sports Grill, but that was not possible, and I am not pleased about Bama Dining's part in it.

Allow me to explain: Due to circumstances from my last semester, I am not required to pay for this term until Jan. 14. Not only that, but UA's Financial Aid has yet to apply my loans, so I can't pay for this term yet. Since I haven't paid yet, I don't have Dining Dollars.

Last term I purchased a Silver Meal Plan before my column began and after I spent all of my Dining Dollars. I figured it would tie me over for a while. It did. I was left at the end of the keep. Clearly, I was wrong. semester with around 60 meal plans left to roll over to this

So, this term, my bill showed another Silver Meal Plan. Even with the extra eating my column requires of me, I wouldn't be able to use all those meals. So, to save my parents' money, I went to Bama Dining Thursday to downgrade my plan.

They told medown grading my plan would eliminate my rolled over meal plans. I didn't like that, but after asking to be sure it wouldn't happen until I confirmed my schedule, I decided it without a job or car somewhat was okay. Mistake on my part.

Despite Financial Aid telling me the loan would be applied to my account today, it has not happened. Despite being told my roll-over meal plans would last until I paid for my new term, it has not happened. This has left me no way to eat on campus, beyond cash/credit (and my bank account is near empty thanks to Christmas shopping) until Financial Aid decides to put the PLUS loan in, and who knows how long that will take.

To me, the big problem comes from Bama Dining. This wouldn't have occurred if they had more options available and/ or they had made me aware of exactly what purchasing a meal plan incurs. I figured it was a term-to-term contract, and the meals you paid for you would

Further, the fact that the Bronze Meal Plan gives 80 meals and the Silver jumps to 160 is somewhat absurd. Freshman vear I went with the Silver plan and ended the year with more than 100 meals left. Sophomore year I went Bronze and ran out a couple weeks before the term

And this isn't the first problem I've had with Bama Dining. Over the interim term I stayed on campus, I discovered all oncampus dining shut down, stranded when it came to food.

Still having no car and no job, I'm in a similar situation. I think that, for an organization that tells me (literally) that their number one concern is students, this sort of thing shouldn't happen. There shouldn't be a situation where a student is unable to eat on campus, especially when they've paid for it. Needless to say, more options

should be available for payments, meal plans and weekend and interim eats. I suggest a meal plan that offers 120 meals per term, which equals about seven to eight meals per week. That's much better and more student-focused than trying to squeeze extra money out of students by putting a ridiculous distance between the two cheapest plans.

Offering more than just one or two options for on-campus eating on weekends, especially on Sundays, would also cater more to students. Putting meal plans back in the Ferguson Center's Food Court is already being talked about in the SGA. And it seems somewhat ridiculous to take a meal plan plus extra money for dinner at Bryant Sports Grill when taking multiple meal plans would be easier for students.

Sean Randall is a junior majorwhich left me a sophomore ing in theatre and philosophy.

YOUR VIEW

How do you feel about expanding of the stadium, again?_



"I'm completely neutral. I don't care."



"I think it's a great idea. It's something that's been needed."



"They need to expand student seats and add parking."





"Is it not big enough?"

 Katie Hicks, a junior majoring in social work

CW | Marion Walding

 Amy Todhunter, a sophomore majoring in vocal performance

 Daniel Hayes, a junior majoring in advertising

WE WELCOME YOUR OPINIONS

LIFESTYLES

Delayed Theatre Tuscaloosa show now playing

By Kelsey Stein Senior Lifestyles Reporter

The cast and crew of "Miscast: A Musical Mishap Cabaret!" spent late August perfecting the plans for their fall show, set to debut the first weekend of September.

What they didn't plan for was Hurricane Gustav. Shelton State Community College, the venue for Theatre Tuscaloosa productions. served as a hurricane shelter after Gustav ravaged Louisiana, delaying the show's debut by four months.

Director Tina Fitch and musical director Leslie Poss proved their resilience by rearranging the entire show and reassigning parts in preparation for its belated debut.

Finally, the cast and crew, ranging in age from 6 to nearly 60, can perform the show that they have long awaited, kicking off the tenth anniversary season at Shelton State's Bean-Brown Theatre.

"'Miscast' is a musical revue where the actors play roles in which they would never be cast, crossing the boundaries of gender, race, size and shape," Fitch said.

A steady stream of musical theatre songs, from the well-known to

the show, which Fitch described as "The Heiress," as well as several a "sampler platter of musical the-

The acts range from business women flaunting briefcases while singing the parts of girls in the orphanage of "Annie" to a young man performing the heart-wrenching love ballad of a "Dreamgirls" heroine

"The focus is the song, not so much the production," Fitch said. "We're wanting to really celebrate the music.

As the customer service specialist for Theatre Tuscaloosa, Jill Parsons has been crucial to the performance of "Miscast," managing many organizational aspects for the weekend of the show and even performing in it herself.

"It will be good, old-fashioned fun," Parsons said. "Everyone in the audience is encouraged to sing along, whether their neighbors will enjoy it or not."

University of Alabama students, staff and graduates, including both Parsons and Fitch, are involved in the production of "Miscast.'

Willie Williams, a thirdyear graduate teaching assistant and acting pedagogy, has acted in the relatively unfamiliar, comprises UA theatre productions such as

"Theatre Tuscaloosa has a community feel," Williams said. "It isn't always actors who are trained through an educational program, but instead you find really seasoned actors who truly love theatre, not for the money or publicity."

The show will take place at the Martin campus of Shelton State Community College in the Bean-Brown Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 and 10 and at 2 p.m. on Jan. 11. It will run between an hour-and-a-half to two hours with no intermission.

Ticket prices are \$22 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$10 for students.

What: Theatre Tuscaloosa presents "Miscast: A Musical Mishap Cabaret!"

When: 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday

Where: Martin campus of Shelton State Community College, Bean-Brown Theatre

Price: \$10 for students, \$17 for seniors, \$22 for adults



Above: Autumn Fuller performs the song "Little Girls" from the musical "Annie" as part of Theatre Tuscaloosa's presentation of "Miscast: A Musical Mishap Cabaret.

Left: Jenny Ryan performs the song "Get Me to the Church on Time" as part of Theatre Tuscaloosa's performance of "Miscast: A Musical Mishap Cabaret."

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Students look to 2009 as a fresh start

By Josh Hedrick Lifestyles Reporter

As the clock ticked its last fluke and that you "really can seconds of 2008, many students inhaled their last drags students can seize the new education of cigarettes, frantically year and look towards a hapsayored their last cookies and nier healthier and more proput their practice of sleeping ductive 2009. through 2 p.m. classes behind

A new year always brings about resolutions of selfimprovement or commitments some kept throughout the year, many not — and for UA students, this year is no different. Whether kicking a ing and advertising and pubnasty or expensive habit, getting healthy and thwarting

the freshman 15 (while it's

still the freshman 8) or even There are so many ladies in and call them fat." proving to skeptical parents the world and I want to give that last semester was just a them all something." do much better than that," all

"I want to stop worrying about the things I [can't] control, do something nice for someone more, marketing every day and, of course, try and work out more."

— Ana Garcia, senior, market-

— David O'Brien, sophomore,

"Lose weight, get healthy and find the girl of my dreams... Hopefully.'

- Shane Slaughter, sopho-

"Read the Wall Street Journal everyday and quit smoking.'

Zach Narvaez, senior,

"My resolution is to give more. "Not to talk bad about people

finance and Spanish

Christen Dorsa, sophomore,

"Get a job, if I can find one."

— David Gilchrist, freshman, business

"To grow my business and not lose sight of why it was started."

Josh Cain, senior, general English business

"Not to drink every day, be good about going to class and make at least two A's."

— Joe Hill, junior, psychology

"Spend less time sleeping and being lazy."

— Mark Hale, junior, computer science

"Quit smoking and question some of the things I've always thought to be absolutely true.'

— Evan Beattie, sophomore,

"I want to spend less money, mostly because I have less than last semester. That means eat-

ing out less and smoking less."

Rob Maxwell, sophomore, accounting

"To find my future ex-wife."

— Cole O'Connor, junior, political science

"I plan to study more and spend at least 5 hours a week in the library."

– Jonathon Howard, junior, operations management

"I resolve to help my fiancé out a little more in planning our wed-

Adam Mestre, 1st year law student









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CRIMSON TIDE GYMNASTICS

Dennis eyeing championships

By Will Barry Senior Sports Reporter

Alabama junior Morgan Dennis already has her name in the record books after two years competing for the Crimson Tide, but this year's results could take her to a new level.

In her freshman year, she was the 2007 NCAA Floor Exercise Champion, making her the sixth Alabama gymnast in school history to win an individual national title as a freshman

Her freshman campaign earned her All-American status in the floor exercise and a second team All-America in the all-around.

"When Morgan competed as a freshman and won that national championship, she primarily viewed herself as a vault and floor exercise specialist," head coach Sarah Patterson said. "And now, I think the challenge is from last year and now this year [is] Morgan's an all-arounder.

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and I think so her role has changed and I think how she views herself has changed as well."

It wasn't long after she displayed her skills in Coleman Coliseum that the 5-foot, 2inch star from Westampton, N.J., was being compared to Alabama's four-time NCAA Champion Ashley Miles.

"I mean, I'm already in my junior year and I know by her junior year she had already won three [National Championships] and I only have one," Dennis said. "But I mean, I'm still proud of my accomplishments so far."

Last year, she repeated as an All-American in the floor exercise and added second team All-American honors in the all-around and uneven

Dennis recognizes what she has to do to make sure that her part is fulfilled so that the team can accomplish their goals.

"I anchor the floor and vault and just last year I started anchoring beam, and so now I feel that the coaches have trusted me enough to take that position," Dennis said. "I have to use my confidence and kind of spread it amongst

all stay calm and just work as a team throughout the lineups and everything.'

With one NCAA title under her belt, Dennis' junior year presents her with an opportunity to bring Alabama its fifth NCAA Championship.

"I think this is the best team that I've been on as far as talent and potential," Dennis said.

Dennis is the main event in the floor exercise in the eyes of many fans who look to Dennis to put on a show.

"I think everyone does wait for her to come," Patterson said. "I think they wait for her to step up because she has the biggest and the highest tumbling. It's very difficult, and I think that's a fun place to be in."

Another individual NCAA Championship may not be too far away for the junior All-American in 2009.

"I think she's a very determined young woman,' Patterson said. "I think she also has a very strong sense of character and I think those things coupled with a lot of talent help her go in so many different directions to achieve success."



Junior Morgan Dennis may be the most decorated gymnast on the squad, but this year she's looking for more team success. After a disappointing sixth place finish last year, Dennis and the rest of the team aim for a better finish.

Freshmen look to make immediate impact

By Laura Owens Contributing Writer

Unlike other sports such as football, basketball and baseball, gymnastics is a sport where it is not unusual for freshman to start in a meet right from the very beginning. The Alabama gymnastics squad added six new freshmen

to the roster, three of which,

Ashley Priess, Geralen Stack-

will compete this weekend at Auburn.

"For some of them, they're very nervous," head coach Sarah Patterson said. "They haven't been in a college setting. They haven't necessarily seen a college gymnastics meet, and to go up against one of our biggest rivals in state, that's huge.'

In order to prepare the

Eaton and Caitlin Sullivan, freshmen for the upcoming meet, the team has been practicing 20 hours a week, where Patterson introduced the girls to pressure situations they may face.

'We had a balance beam intrasquad where we didn't do great. We came back at 7:30 that night to do it again, and then we did awesome,' Patterson said. "Hopefully, those situations will prepare us for this later on."

From all of her years of experience, Priess said she is also confident the team will do very well against their in-state rival on Friday.

"In however long I've been doing gymnastics, we've been training for those types of scenarios," she said. "Through lots of sports psychology, I pray deeply to God every night, we just have to go out there and stay calm, and if we just do what we do in practice, we'll be fine.

Priess said she already knew the girls before coming down because her older sister was on the squad a few years prior. It was not just that familiarity with the rest of the team, however, that she said drew her to Alabama.

"It helped to have my sister down here just because I was familiar with the program, but the coaches, the whole program here is what really drew

CW | Drew Hoover

With injuries to key members of the squad, freshmen Geralen Stack-Eaton (left) and Ashley Priess will be asked to make an immediate impact.

me," she said. "There was something about the atmosphere and their attitude about coaching that was so enthusifrom my former training envito be a part of."

Another part of the atmosphere at Alabama is the intensity surrounding the Alabama-Auburn rivalry. The gymnastics team will kick off their season against their instate rival tonight.

"It's cool that Alabama has those rivalries because it only makes us better," Priess said. "It makes every program [better] when they have that type of relationship, so it's exciting and nerve wrecking, but

I think if we can use it to our advantage, it will only help us in the long run."

The meet against Auburn astic and positive and different is only the beginning of a very promising season for the ronment that I really wanted freshmen. Three-time SEC Champion Ricki Legebern has complete confidence in the newest members.

"I definitely see them making a big impact," Legebern said. "As the season goes on, we will have the injured people coming back in, but until then, we will send our freshmen out there and build their confidence. They have some big skills that once they're confident, we will put into our routines later on in the season."



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GYMNAST Continued from page 1

Sophomore Kayla Hoffman, who placed fifth in the vault, underwent shoulder surgery in the offseason and has yet to fully recover, while junior Kassi Price, who finished eighth in the uneven bars, will only compete in one event in Auburn today.

"I think right now that depth is everything because we're using all of it," Sarah Patterson said. "We have the largest team we've had in years, but we've had numerous gymnasts that have had some difficulties and challenges physically that they have had to overcome."

Alabama's Although sixth place at the NCAA

Championships last season did not satisfy the expectations of possibly winning it all, it was the Tide's 24th top-6 finish in 26 consecutive national championship appearances, and Alabama returns five All-Americans to this year's

Junior Morgan Dennis, the other of the three top-8 individual finishers from last year's Championships, followed up her victory in the floor exercise her freshman year with an impressive fourth-place finish at last season's championships.

"Right now, we're just trying to go out there and get a good start to the season and build our confidence from there," said junior Ricki Lebegern, the 2008 SEC Vault and Balance Beam Champion.

"Once we get our people returning from injury, we will

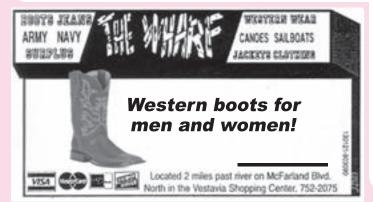
have a good team.' Along with All-Americans Hoffman, Price and Dennis returning, Alabama has a talented slew of six incoming freshman to provide much needed depth until the Tide

can regain its health. "We're going to see people who have not necessarily played a major role step in and contribute right in the beginning of the season," Patterson said. "I think we're going to be a lot better as time goes on."

Alabama must deal with the pressure of prolonging the unprecedented streak against its arch-rival without some of its top gymnasts tonight, but Patterson said she looks for-

ward to capturing something more than just victories over Auburn this season.

'Regardless of injuries, situations, whatever happens, the goal is to get us to a place where on the last night we're competitive for the national championship. I think whoever's on our roster, whoever's healthy, it doesn't really matter. At the end, somehow we have to find a way to do that."





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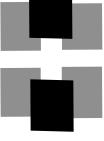
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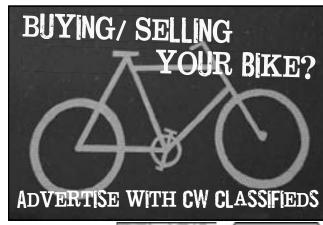
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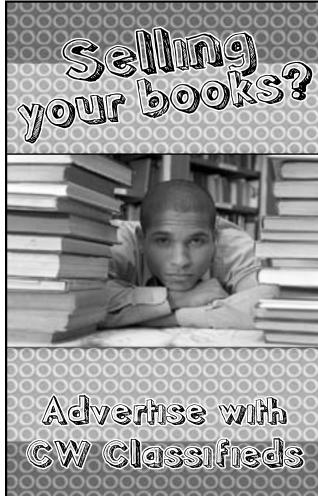
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Tide's comeback falls short

UA Athletics

The Alabama women's basketball team cut a 26-point deficit to four, but No. 24 Vanderbilt was able to hold on to win 85-76 Thursday night in the Tide's SEC opener.

Freshman Erika Russell netted a career-best 25 points including 15 from three-point range. Both the Tide and Commodores move to 12-4 on

"The first half was not the team we have watched go out and compete and play hard," head coach Wendell Hudson said. "It was not our basketball team; it looked like somebody else out there playing in the first half.'

"But at the same time, we grew. This team went out and fought hard. They didn't give up. I am just so proud of this basketball team and the effort they gave in the second half."

Alabama had five players reach double digits in scoring led by Russell's 25. Sophomore guard Varisia Raffington dropped 16 points, sophomore forward Tierney Jenkins added 11 and sophomore

Junior forward Courtney Strauthers earned her first with 12 points and 10 rebounds while point guard Dedrea Magee dished out a careerhigh ten assists. Vanderbilt tage, 47-22. was led by senior Jennifer Risper with 17 points.

three-pointer to open scoring and give the Tide a quick responded with the next four lead. Alabama continued to stay in front until Vanderbilt largest lead of the game at 26. junior Merideth Marsh buried 9-7 at the 16:19 mark.



guard Alyson Butler contrib- Alabama guard Erika Russell stands on her toes looking for an open teammate.

the next six minutes until the 12:50 remaining on the clock. double-double of the season Commodores put together a 26-8 run to end the half. Vanderbilt headed into the break with a 25-point advan-

Alabama scored the first two points of the second frame Russell connected on a off a pair of free throws from Jenkins, but the Commodores point giving Vanderbilt's its

The Tide gradually chipped a three of her own to go ahead away and put together a 20-6 run midway through the half The Tide kept it close over to pull within eight points with Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Commodores scored the next six points gaining another double-digit lead, but Alabama would not give up. The Tide formulated a 13-2 run to come within four points of

Raffington was responsible for seven of the 13 points during that stretch. Vanderbilt went on to score seven of the last nine points scored in the game to pick up the win.

Next up, Alabama travels to Baton Rouge to face LSU on

Sloppy, choppy game leaves Florida as BCS champion

By Ben Walker The Associated Press

SPORTS

MIAMI | Tim Tebow gave Florida the jolt it needed, and the Gators toughed out a second BCS title in three years.

Their 24-14 win over No. 2 Oklahoma in a choppy, sloppy affair Thursday night made them a national champion. But it likely did little to quiet fans of Southern California, Utah and Texas, all of whom already claimed the top spot.

The high-scoring shootout between Heisman Trophy winners never materialized. Oklahoma's Sam Bradford couldn't score from in close and Tebow threw two interceptions. as many as he had all season.

Tebow, however, shook off two miserable throws to rescue the top-ranked Gators (13-1). He drove them to the clinching score — he took two hard steps toward the line, jumped and zipped a 4yard touchdown pass to David Nelson with 3:07 to make it 24-14.

Percy Harvin returned from an ankle injury and dashed for 122 yards on only nine carries. His 52-yard gallop set up Jonathan Phillips' 27-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter for a 17-14

Tebow added to the title he helped the Gators win in 2006 with a rout of Ohio State and, one season after winning the Heisman, brought home another trophy.

"Tebow, just call him Superman," Harvin said.

National chomps, indeed! The Associated Press will release its final poll early Friday

Tebow was picked the game's most outstanding player, running for 109 yards. His passing wasn't so precise — 18-for-30 — yet it was his sheer will



Florida's Tim Tebow yells to his teammates during the fourth quarter of the BCS Championship NCAA college football game against Oklahoma in Miami on Jan. 8. Florida defeated Oklahoma 24-14.

team going.

It was the third straight national title for a team from the Southeastern Conference, and marked the Sooners' fifth straight loss in a BCS game. Oklahoma (12-2) set a modern record for scoring this season and put up at least 60 points in its last five games, yet never found its rhythm.

Bradford, who beat out Tebow for the Heisman, was a disappointing 26-for-41 with two interthat kept coach Urban Meyer's ceptions. Like Tebow, he's going the Gators close.

to explore his potential for the NFL draft — not exactly the performance he wanted.

Tebow struggled throughout the first half, his lone highlight a 20-yard touchdown pass to Louis Murphy for a 7-0 lead early in the second quarter. Bradford came right back with a swift 65-yard drive, capped by his 6-yard TD toss to Jermaine Gresham.

Florida's defense, rather than Tebow, Harvin and its speedsters on the other side of the ball, kept

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