

Expected Lakeside crowds unclear



Brandice Parker, Max Scruggs, JaMarlin Williams and Latoya Parker joke around and eat at the Lakeside Dining Hall.
 CW/ Courtney Davies

Bama Dining wants variety to alleviate crowds

By JAMES JAILLET
 Senior Staff Reporter
 ■ jaillet@cw.ua.edu

Growth is a word that has made itself synonymous with the UA campus. In addition to the student population, dining halls are changing, from renovations in Mary Burke Hall to the construction of

what will become the largest dining facility on campus, Lakeside Dining Hall.

Lakeside Dining will seat nearly 600 with both floors utilized. With the Ferguson Center food court and Fresh Food Company being crowded nearly every day at lunch time, the question arises over what expectations Bama Dining has for the shift of diners that could occur after the opening of the new dining facility.

"We're anticipating growth and trying to build accordingly," Bama Dining director AJ Defalco said. "We don't want [Lakeside Dining] to be a fad; we want it to be as successful as the Ferg and as the Fresh Food Company. We can see the crowds changing, but it's hard to know what type of shift we're going to see until after it has been open for a few weeks."

See **LAKESIDE, Page 2**

By the numbers
 Lakeside Diner

600	people Lakeside Dining will sit
500	customers per day for Lakeside convenience store
\$1,000	per-day sales for Lakeside convenience store

Renovations to help Paty

Some students think hall should be torn down instead of renovated

By KYLE GUNNELS
 Staff Reporter
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In the shadows of the new Riverside and Lakeside communities and with the planned Ridgcrest facilities quickly rising across the street, Paty Hall still stands 45 years after being built.

To many on campus, Paty Hall, which first opened in 1962, is viewed as an old building in need of much more than a renovation.

Rumors swirl every year about the destruction of Paty; however, some UA officials said while at exact future is uncertain for the building, it will continue to stand for several years.

"Paty is a very important, large building in a popular campus location," said Housing and Residential Communities spokeswoman Alicia Browne. "We plan to have Paty around for the next several years."

Though the overall appearance of Paty might not be up to some standards, Browne said it plays a crucial role to the overall campus plan.

"We certainly have to be flexible with the plans for Paty as enrollment increases and the freshman classes grow, because we have to ensure that we continue to have the buildings to provide housing needed for freshmen," Browne said.

Some residents of Paty said they think there are some things that need to be improved if the building is kept open.

"The showers and the bathrooms are the nastiest things

See **PATY, Page 2**

1983 - **1984**
1996
2005 - **2007**

- Oct. 24**
 Asbestos in Paty ceilings cause concern. Students start reporting concerns about exposure.
- Nov. 30**
 Renovation starts on fifth floor to remove asbestos. Damage was greatest in Paty compared to other buildings.
- Jan. 30**
 Asbestos project removal closes fifth floor; students moved to re-opened Saffold Hall.
- Sept. 15**
 Hall renovations in fall include new baths, new furniture, raised beds for more storage space.
- Oct. 21**
 Officials planned to demolish Paty after the 2005-06 school year.
- January**
 Paty Hall is anticipated to stay open for the next several years. Paty is to be refurbished at a cost of \$600,000.

Fergalicious



Daniel Bernard Roumain, the endowed chair in composition of the UA School of Music, plays the violin at Hip-Hop and Beyond Thursday night at the Ferg.

"... Look at hip-hop. It started after the civil rights movement, and the movement didn't have just one viewpoint. Hip-hop doesn't have once voice, hip-hop should be no one voice."

- FREEMAN CULVER
 graduate student in arts, panelist



Students dance on stage during a rap at the Hip-Hop Summit.

Students, faculty and community members gather in Ferg to discuss future of hip-hop

By JACOB SUMMERS
 Staff Reporter

The image of hip-hop may change in the near future, a change some students said would be for the best.

The Hip-Hop Summit, which was held in the Ferguson Center on Thursday, was a forum to discuss the opinions of faculty and staff on the current state of hip-hop.

The panelists included Stevona Rogers, Toni Blackman and Freeman Culver. Blackman, an international artist, is well known for her support of women's rights and the renovation of the hip-hop culture.

"If you're not as educated, a lot of people in my generation don't think of it as 'my' problem," said Rogers, a senior majoring in English.

Most in attendance at the summit said the problem with the culture is women are treated as sexual objects, messages are negative and the thrills are cheap attempts using profanity and vulgarity.

Rogers said this is due, in part, to the American dream: fast cars, beautiful women, riches and subordination. People, she said, work hard to earn these things since society gives them such high value.

Education in a formal setting is not always the reason people are turning a blind eye to the corruption of the music, said Freeman Culver, a panelist and graduate student.

"Popular culture has more ability to teach than the classroom," Culver said. "It has a responsibility. Look at hip-hop. It started after the civil rights movement, and the movement didn't have just one viewpoint. Hip-hop doesn't have one voice, hip-hop should be no one voice."

Culver said that by having different voices, the culture has the ability to teach others about more positive influences, not the common negative associations it has today.

These associations are unrepresentative of the entire culture and dim the accomplishments of finer performers of this century, said Kendall Robert, a resident of New Orleans and soon-to-be student.

"It's such a shame that so many people hear these artists today and that's all they think about hip-hop," Robert said. "When you have people like Lupe Fiasco, Common Sense and others, they were sending out real, positive messages."

One of the issues addressed was the demeaning of women through lyrics that describe them as sexual objects.

"You can't be rich and powerful, and women be liberated," Rogers said of the media's portrayal of success. "It's true in Hollywood, the business world, Wall Street - successful men have mistresses, wives, mansions

See **SUMMIT, Page 5**

SGA ELECTIONS 2007

Phillips Thomas, Matthew Wisda running for academic affairs VP

Thomas wants to improve advising process; kill Dead Week

By CHARITY SCOTT
 Assistant Student Life Editor
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Phillips Thomas is sick of hearing her friends complain. Their teachers give tests during Dead Week, their advisers

do not dispense advice and the chairs in many of the places they take classes wobble like Jell-O.

In response, Thomas, a sophomore majoring in international studies, decided to run for vice president of academic affairs so she could make some changes. "Some students came to me and suggested that I run,"



Phillips Thomas

Thomas said. Thomas is on the SGA executive advisory board, which she said helped her find her niche on campus.

"I don't want apathetic students to feel like there's no one in SGA that represents them," Thomas said.

See **THOMAS, Page 5**

Wisda wants to make a wireless Capstone, reform advising

By CHARITY SCOTT
 Assistant Student Life Editor
 ■ scott@cw.ua.edu

On days like Thursday, when the sun shines for the first time in what seems like months, students should be

able to check their e-mail or Facebook on the Quad, Matt Wisda said.

Wisda, a sophomore majoring in political science, said he wants the entire campus to have wireless Internet access by next fall.

"I'd start working on it over the summer if I'm elected," he said.

Wisda said he would also



Matt Wisda

like to start working on reforming the advising process.

"The process seems impersonal now, and students don't have the level of satisfaction that they should," he said.

Wisda said he wants to create a computer program that contains all of the information students need

See **WISDA, Page 5**

IN CAMPUS brief

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

CLARIFICATION

In Thursday's story, "Guard to host paintball tournament," a Web site was given for the upcoming paintball tournament hosted by the National Guard, but it did not directly lead to the page about the paintball tournament.

A more direct Web site for the event is 1-800-go-guard.com/paintball.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Organization awards applications available

The Office of Campus Activities and the Coordinating Council for Student Organizations are extending invitations to student organizations to apply for the 2006-07 Student Organization Awards.

Applications are due to 341 Ferguson Center by March 9. The award packets will be reviewed by a selections board, and the CCSO Student Organizations Awards Banquet will take place April 2. Individual awards will additionally be given for outstanding students, advisers and projects.

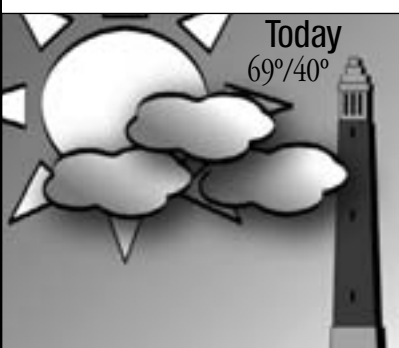
For more information, contact Amy Owens, outreach chairwoman for CCSO, at 348-2276 or ccsoorg@sa.ua.edu or visit ccso.ua.edu.

HRC looking for summer staffers

The Office of Housing and Residential Communities is accepting applications for the following summer staff positions: conference manager, conference assistant, orientation manager, orientation assistant, summer school resident assistant, summer school assistant community director and desk assistant. Detailed information on each position and the application are available at <http://housing.ua.edu/summer/summerstaff.htm>.

Applications are due by March 7 to the HRC office in Mary Burke Hall. Interviews will be held March 21-23.

WEATHER



Mostly sunny with a calm east wind.

Saturday 20 percent chance of showers.
69°/48°

Sunday Partly cloudy.
67°/39°

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We need a little cush for your tush."
— Phillips Thomas, a candidate for SGA vice president for academic affairs, on getting better desks for students in some buildings.
See "Phillips Thomas, Matthew Wisda running for academic affairs VP,"
Page 1.

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■ SGA SENATE

Senate kills floor leader bill

By MICHELLE TANNER
Senior Staff Reporter
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SGA Senate passed five pieces of legislation Thursday night and held two previously introduced bills and resolutions.

The resolution that called for professors to only require software compatible with both Macs and PCs was held with the Academic Affairs Committee until further clarified and the cost can be researched.

One bill, which called for the creation of the position of

Senate floor leader, was tabled indefinitely and removed from the agenda.

Senators passed one resolution that required professors who require "E-instruction" technology devices, or clickers, to require only the devices approved by the Office of the Provost, as well as a resolution that will delay the enforcement of class attendance policies until the end of the add/drop period.

One bill, which clarified the role of the vice president of external affairs, was also passed.

LAKESIDE

Continued from Page 1

Defalco said he wants to have Lakeside Dining open before the summer to know what the crowds will be like next year.

Gina Johnson, associate vice president for auxiliary services, said the specialties that each of the dining areas offer should serve as a balancing point for on-campus diners.

"We want the crowds to balance. We try to make this possible by having a balance of different types of dining atmospheres that all offer different things," Johnson said.

"There will be specialties at every place. If chicken tetrazini is what you want then you can look at the menu and know that southern kitchen in Fresh Food has that today. Or you may want carved roast beef from Burke, but by having that array and variety of foods everyone will have something they like."

Some students said they

think there will be a crowd change in the Ferguson Center food court and Fresh Food Company, but others said the Ferg will stay packed because of its central location on campus.

"Personally I don't think there will be much of a crowd change," said Michael Venezia, a freshman majoring in psychology. "It will take some of the crowd away but there won't be a significant change in the crowd size due to the growth of the number of students."

Jason Oslin, a junior majoring in computer science, said he agrees because different students will be attracted to each location.

"It's just easier for people who live in Riverside, Lakeside and Rose Towers to eat there," he said. "For commuters the Ferg will still be a more central location. I don't know how it will affect traffic in [the Ferg], though. I've been here for three years and there has been a definite influx in student population and nothing has really changed, so I don't see why much would

change now."

Amanda Putnam, a senior majoring in management, said she sees it differently. She said advertising will play a large role in the crowd size at Lakeside Dining.

"I don't think we'll see near as many people in the Ferg," she said. "I think with as much advertising as they've done, there will be a pretty good turn out, especially for the first couple weeks. After that it may die down and go back to being the same here, but I still think there will be a noticeable change in the Ferg."

So far, since the opening of the upper level of Lakeside

organizations to "provide a voice that represents all students."

The final resolution, which would formally encourage support and participation in the UA student-organized Rural Alabama Leadership Seminar, to be held on March 31 at the Ferguson Center, was sent to the Resolutions Committee.

The seminar is a leadership conference designed for high school student leaders in nearby rural counties to develop leadership skills through a variety of speakers.

Dining, meal plan usage at the Lakeside Diner is 30 percent better than it was at Paty Hall's 24 Hour Diner, according to Johnson. Also, the Lakeside convenience store takes in \$1,000 per day in sales, which Defalco said, is around 500 customers.

"It's very gratifying to see students embracing the idea of the store and the lounge area in Lakeside," Defalco said. "We're going to keep trying to work with students, but we hope to see them keep utilizing the services and help us to keep growing and making the dining environment better for everyone."

PATY

Continued from Page 1

ever," said Joseph Miller, a freshman majoring in civil engineering and Paty resident. "The water constantly switches from hot to cold. That needs to change."

Browne said minor improvements would be made to the hall this summer, bringing some much-needed attention to the building that last received only slight touch-ups in 2004.

"There are plans to refurbish the inside of Paty this summer with more cosmetic things than structural changes," Browne said. "New paint and new floors will be added, and improvements to the first floor common areas will be made."

The money used for these improvements will come from funds raised from the rent students pay to live in the residence hall, Browne said.

Eventually, though, residents said they think Paty will need to be torn down due to its appearance.

"They'll eventually have to tear it down and move toward the apartment style dorms they are building now if they want to match the image and look of the campus," said Josh

Hollis, a freshman majoring in marketing and current Paty resident.

Though the showers may not work some times and the smell isn't always the best, some residents said that at the end of the day, it was the friends they have made that make Paty what it is to them.

"The best thing about Paty is all of the people. You have a lot of good people here; it's a lot better than people make it out to be," said Jordan Countryman, a freshman majoring in engineering and Paty resident.

Countryman also said since having shared a small room with another person and a communal bathroom with the entire wing of the building, he has learned to better appreciate everything that he has.

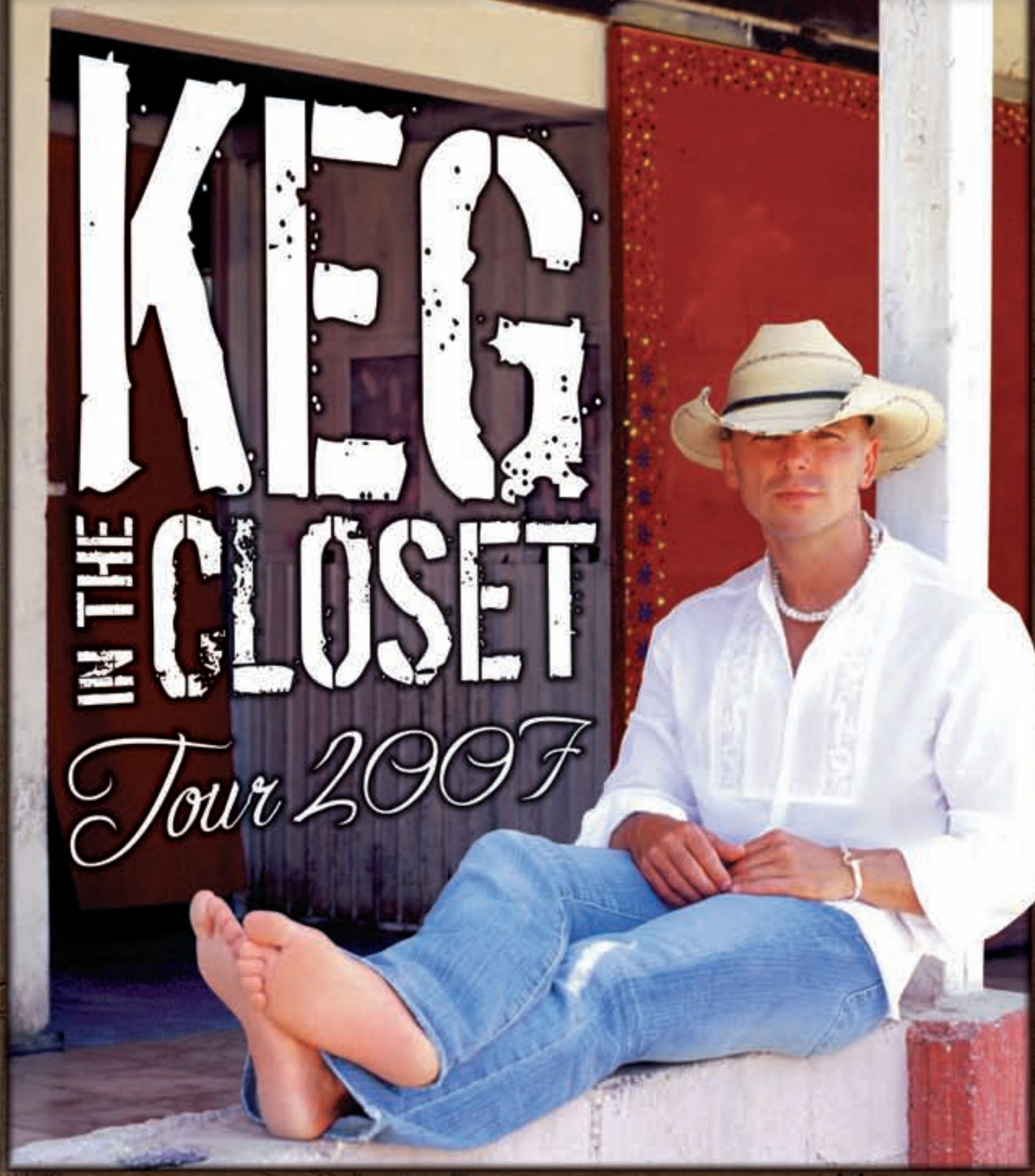
"It's definitely been an eye-opening experience living here," Hollis said. "Especially seeing how all of these different people live."

Other students found it harder to think of a few words to summarize their stay in the building they call home.

"It's real hard to define or sum up the Paty experience in one quote," Miller said. "It is definitely memorable; you have to take the good with the bad."

Kenny Chesney

CELEBRATE



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THE JUPITER

MONDAY, FEBRUARY - 26th

ALL TICKETS ONLY \$10.00

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Our View

Mitchell OK for external affairs job

In the race for vice president of external affairs between Jesse Homan and Britney Mitchell, The Crimson White editorial board thinks **Britney Mitchell** is the better candidate for the position.

The biggest difference between the two candidates is their passion and their stance on the current administration of the University. We think Mitchell will be more successful in the position, but we can't ignore Homan's passion about transforming the position to truly be the voice for students.

Homan presented the platforms of saving the Strip, being the students' voice as officials from Housing and Residential Communities potentially remove upper-classmen from residence halls and improving off-campus security.

Homan presented his views with a passion rarely seen by SGA officials, and he freely admitted the problems the SGA has with relevancy. The frank presentation was refreshing to us and reflected the same emotions those on the editorial board feel about the SGA.

Homan represents a growing segment of the UA student body that is dissatisfied with the SGA and the way UA President Robert Witt has handled current issues, most notably the buying of property on the Strip.

While Mitchell can't necessarily be characterized as the pro-UA administration candidate, Homan is the anti-UA administration candidate.

He is willing to say the things many other candidates won't say and acknowledge that a lot of the time the SGA doesn't do anything to help students.

Here's the problem we have with Homan: He wasn't able to show us that he had tangible and achievable plans during his tenure in the office. With his platform of saving the Strip, for example, he wasn't able to present specific ways he planned to accomplish it.

He lacked the organization and specificity Mitchell offers, and he lacked a diversity of ideas about what he wanted to do during his tenure; if his broad, large goals can't be achieved, what will he do then?

Mitchell came into the meeting and presented a well-developed, detailed plan of what she wanted to accomplish during her tenure if elected.

We were impressed with her plan to hold a preview day for the new Crimson Ride transit system before it is enacted. Her plan is to hold preview days before the transit system starts so student groups can ride the system and report problems they have.

We were disappointed that Mitchell did not mention the Strip in her platform and hope if she wins that she will take up Homan's passionate torch to fight for student voices to be heard about the issue.

Though we're pretty cynical about the student body having a legitimate voice in the issue of the changing Strip, it has to be addressed.

Our View is the consensus of the CW editorial board.

Letter to the Editor

Global warming is fact

I am writing this letter in response to the column written by Josh Burleson earlier this month titled "When Politics Meets Science."

There are those who are sick of hearing the debate over global warming, but I am writing to diminish the notion that it is merely a hunch or political stunt but rather a real issue that will threaten the lives of our children.

I want to say that I agree with Burleson in that global warming shouldn't be a political issue. I think that when scientists approach the government with research that they deem important, their initial goal is not to politicize the problem but to solve it.

I think one problem is the conservatives who are running to the media in droves convincing people that global warming is a hoax. I am here to tell you that this is ridiculous. Global warming is a plain fact, much like the fact that stem-cell research makes grand strides in disease study. I think global warming should

not be a political issue but rather an ethical one.

Burleson makes many assumptions in his column rather than actually doing the research on the subject. Yes, the temperature in the atmosphere and oceans are at a high. Yes, small increases can cause major impacts.

No, those impacts will not come in the form of less snow or hotter summers; they will be on a much grander scale. Yes, the Arctic ice caps are diminishing.

These things are not concocted in some evil, liberal library backed by Al Gore to take over the world; they are real threats.

Burleson also said spending money implementing the Kyoto protocol is not worth it. How can that be?

The United States has spent trillions of dollars on a misguided war but refuses to take part in an effort to reduce its emissions? The proof is in the statistics and research.

The final proof will be in the consequences if the United States does not take action soon.

Heather Wyatt
Alumna

Treat me more than just fairly

This is a letter to Marlin Caddell, editor of The Crimson White.

We've met before, but you might not remember me considering your clear and blatant refusal to publish anything, well, everything about me. I'm that super interesting guy everyone except you loves (trust me, I've asked around), and it's time I confronted you privately.

Maybe you just think you're better than me or my poetry is trite, but I can assure you the day of reckoning has come for you and your anti-prententious agenda.

In 2004 I came to the Capstone with one revolutionary goal in mind: to express myself. The University supported my initiative wholeheartedly, telling me to "Dream a little" and then supplied me with a full arrangement of finger paints to achieve my goal. My first collegiate art piece, entitled "Absent Doodles," was a blank sheet of paper you did not publish because, according to rumors, you hate art ... and me.

I know that you made me managing editor: news (whatever the f--- that means) and gave me a weekly column, but not one of those glamour shots I sent you has seen the light of day. I don't understand where you get off publishing



Pura Vida

Mike Faulk
faulk@cw.ua.edu

stand-alone pictures of kids playing the guitar and hippies smashing eggs on their heads in a photojournalism class but not promoting the cultural movement that is my face.

Your entertainment editor, Corey Craft, whose ironically titled arts column "Stop the Hate" has never mentioned me and thus inspired this letter, tried to say there are a plethora of reasons for why not every thing that every person wants to get published doesn't make it into The Crimson White, and I call him a liar. Maybe there's a space issue, he said, an unfortunate miscommunication or sometimes the sad and pathetic reviews of mainstream films many students are considering whether to spend their \$8 on.

This, however, is contrary to all of my vicious assumptions about how business is

handled at this student-run publication, so I won't believe it. Take that.

But my case against it doesn't end there, you fart face. Despite my *obvious* intimidation tactics, like the flaming finger-painted bag of poo I'll be leaving on your front porch tonight, you continue to insist I'm overreacting. You say because you have teased to most of my columns at the top of each Friday's front page and given great prominence to what news stories of mine you did feature that maybe I shouldn't be this angry.

Well shut up, because I'm not the only person on campus with an initiative you have worked so hard against, and it looks like it has had a trickle-down effect. Your self-righteous, narrow-minded view has created a precedent for self-congratulation and lack of regard for the accomplishments of other artistic groups on this campus so grand that you got prestigious accolades for your work. Really, what the hell?

Or maybe I'm thinking of something else — I get my vaguely-drawn enemies confused because they all look alike, and you know what I see when you're standing in front of me? A stupid-head.

I'll assume this letter, which I am also sending to the president of the United

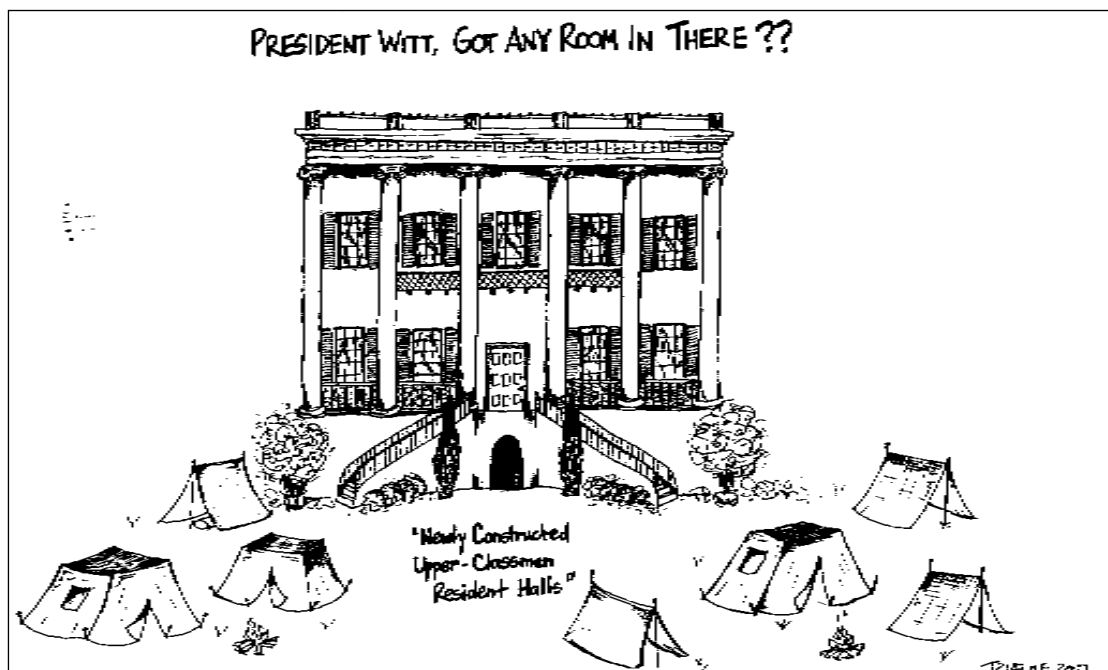
States, top UA officials and my grief counselor, will be kept private. Because you do not run a real newspaper, despite cordial competition with other media outlets and having multiple stories run by The Associated Press, I think I have the right to disparage your undergraduate staff as arbitrarily and covertly as I see fit.

Furthermore, you should know that I'm happy to take my brilliance to other publications, but they won't give me special treatment either. So as the other great cultural contributors have done before me, I shall bear this burden; this artist's curse. The pen is mightier than the sword, as I once said, and I will shred you with my craft.

I'd be surprised if you even read this letter Marlin, since you're so busy stealing names from graceful sea creatures and managing relations with those "other" interests on campus that don't even know who I am. But if you don't then someone will, and hopefully that will be enough to hurt your feelings so bad that you'll finally submit to me.

Yours in Christ,
Mike Faulk

Mike Faulk is the managing editor: news of The Crimson White. His column runs on Fridays.



Submitted by
Elizabeth Truelove

Emotions could be our downfall

By DREW HOLT

You can't decide what you'll care about, it just happens. We're human beings, and part of our design is to be influenced by emotion. After all, emotions and reason are what separate us from other animals. But emotion is a double-edged sword.

Though emotion gives us such strengths as courage, hope and love, it can also oppose and even override reason. Take Sept. 11 as an example. Sept. 11 was a terrible disaster and a horrible act of cowardly hate.

For the first time in decades, all Americans became the apotheosis of American. For a few brief months, there were no blue states or red states, but red, white and blue states. We were hurt, we were united; we were angry. We wanted revenge, and we wanted it swiftly.

Now it's 2007 and most people want out of Iraq. Part of the reason we were there in the first place is the fact that we wanted revenge — against someone, against anyone.

Now that the flames of Sept. 11 have long since burned out, we can't really remember what

it was like to watch the towers fall, to watch the Pentagon burn, to see the wreckage of Flight 93, to see the faces of the families, to see the smoke clearing around the twisted metal of Ground Zero or to see the president standing there below the American flag assuring us that someone would answer for it.

Sure, we can remember seeing those things on TV, but can we really still feel the feelings we had on that day? The truth is that we can't, and now America wants out of Iraq.

What about the soldiers who have died? If we leave Iraq tomorrow, all of their lives will have been taken for nothing. Nothing but revenge.

If we could have reasoned instead of jumping at our first opportunity to spill blood, would things be different? Keep in mind that we still have not caught Osama bin Laden. He is the one responsible. But somehow we feel better, don't we? Why? Emotion.

There are many examples of how we allow emotion to obscure clarity. For instance, on that day 2,973 American citizens lost their lives. That is a large number of innocent people to die because of blind

hatred (which, I might add, is the emotion lacking reason that the terrorists shared).

You're mad aren't you? At least upset, I assume. Reading that number and thinking about all of those people ...you should be upset. But what about yesterday? Were you upset about it yesterday? Do you think you'll be upset about it tomorrow?

I ask these questions because there is something else you should know about Sept. 11 that I guarantee they never aired on the news. That day in 2001, as I said, 2,973 Americans lost their lives.

But on that same day, almost 24,000 people died of starvation or poverty-related conditions. But you didn't hear about it. What's more, on Sept. 12, 2001, another 24,000 people died. And on the Sept. 13, another 24,000. And every day since then more and more people have died.

In fact, there have been more than 43 million deaths due to poverty, AIDS and starvation since Sept. 11. Are you upset about it? Were you upset about it yesterday?

Will you be upset about it tomorrow?

I am not, as you may be

thinking, implying that the loss of American lives is insignificant. What I am arguing is that every human being on this planet is a slave to emotion.

The walls we build between cultures and the boundaries we draw between beliefs serve only one master: ignorance. Americans as a whole are especially guilty of ignorance and apathy. Those feelings of isolationism, probably born in the post-WWII years, have destroyed our ability to communicate with others.

However, we are not the only ones to blame. It seems as though more and more countries wish to close themselves off from the rest of the world.

The buildup of nuclear weapons, the loss of economic cooperation, the severance of precious communication, these are the dramatic personae on mankind's final stage.

The curtain will soon fall on this tragedy, with the villain victorious: emotion.

Drew Holt is a sophomore majoring in history.

SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

and walk in with models on either elbow. You don't know the models' names or positions or anything about them. They're just objects."

The panelists went on to talk about how women are called b----es and hoes, and no one reacts to this. People don't care unless its personal, and then they get offended, but won't do anything.

Robert said the media's portrayal and treatment by the public might be due to personal interactions.

"It's personal - it happens

in person. Women at a club just throw out b----es and hoe and call each other b---- and hoe back and forth, so it happens in the music," Robert said. "Maybe if women started respecting each other, this might change."

The reason for the demeaning of women is also because successful men in the media shape the image of an acceptable woman, Rogers said.

"Men frame what a woman should be," Rogers said. "They set it up, and if they [women] aren't that, they're considered a b----."

Rogers agreed that women in hip-hop and other musical genres get the label because

they think independently, and that this is why female performers often stick to more sexualized acts.

Hallman said this is often skipped over in critique of female performers.

"When people like Bill O'Reilly slam on hip-hop videos, they never consider abuse," Hallman said. "Performing as a female dancer or video vixen is just a way to earn a lot of money, at the end of the day. And they think it's better because it's hip-hop. Nobody takes that into consideration, when they bash the hip-hop culture."

Rogers asked the audience to question why a change can't

be enacted and why things can't be different. For Rogers, change has not happened because it's not considered fun.

"Why can't a revolution be fun?" asked Rogers. "Because it makes people think. A lot of people just don't want to think."

Tony Boldon, a professor of English and audience member, said this is also because the current examples of music with a positive message are missing a beat - something many people respond to, and a key missing element.

Latoya Scott, who was responsible for coordinating the event, said all of this mat-

ters because hip-hop affects all people, regardless of ethnicity.

"Hip-hop influences our entire culture," Scott said.

"This setting allows us to learn from each other and talk it out. Where else can you take heart in [hip-hop], take part, and take action?"



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WISDA

Continued from Page 1

to create a computer program that contains all of the information students need to be advised properly.

Also, he said he would like to increase the time between classes to make allowances for the new transit system.

"If a bus runs late, you don't want it to make you late for class," Wisda said. He added that he would have to talk to administrators to come up with a plan to make the change

possible.

Wisda, a senator for the College of Arts and Sciences, said he would like to create a position over the SGA standing committees that could act as a go-between, and make sure they run smoothly.

He would also like to make sure that the honors societies students sign up for are being overseen better.

"Students pay \$75 to be in a honors society, and you ought to participate and do the work of the society you join," Wisda said.

Wisda also said he would like to see SGA provide test

booklets for students.

"We would provide a way for professors to pick up the booklet and distribute them as need be," he said.

Wisda said the vice president of academic affairs is a position where organization and planning are crucial.

"I want to be in that room with administrators acting as a spokesperson for the student body," he said. "I know I can be a good spokesperson for students at the University."

Wisda said his platform is all about ensuring students are taken care of by the SGA.

THOMAS

Continued from Page 1

feel like there's no one in SGA that represents them," Thomas said.

Thomas said she built her platform with the intention of keeping it relatively small and open.

"I want students to feel like I'm approachable and know their requests won't be put on a checklist of things," she said. "I'll take them to the floor and have them vote on it."

The main focus of her platform is streamlining the University's advising process so advisers are informed about all of the departments in their college.

"At the end of the semes-

ter when students review teachers, that leads to benefits for the teachers if their reviews are good," Thomas said. "The same could be done for advisers."

She also would like to prevent professors from giving out tests or making projects due during Dead Week by turning the entire week of classes into a prolonged study session. "It needs to be made into a mandatory review session so students get to ask questions without worrying about having a class during their [professor's] office hours," she said. "Students deserve to get every chance to do well."

Another factor that is crucial to students' success is comfort in the classroom, Thomas said. She would like to work on hav-

ing the desks and chairs in several buildings replaced.

"We need a little cush for your tush," Thomas said.

She added that she is not suggesting an overhaul of all desks on campus, but many of the older buildings with heavy traffic need attention.

"The University can provide more left-handed chairs and chairs that don't squeak and rock back and forth," she said.

Thomas said the University has been spending a lot of money lately to make the Capstone a welcoming place for freshmen, but she wants to focus on making sure all students have what they need.

"The honeymoon shouldn't end after your second semester," she said.

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■ PERSONALITY PROFILE

'Reno 911!' star branching out

By PHIL OWEN
Assistant Entertainment Editor
owen@cw.ua.edu



Submitted

"Reno 911!" star Wendi McLendon-Covey is taking her role as Clementine to the big screen today.

"We couldn't go off on an exploration," McLendon-Covey said. "The great thing about the series is that if we're doing something that's funny even if it goes off topic, it'll make it into another episode."

"We usually film 13 episodes, but they're able to cut maybe 16 episodes out of it. With this, it was like, 'No, don't go on a journey with your improv. Stick to the subject. We have to get from Point A to Point B or else it's not going to make sense.' So we had to really be mindful of what we were doing, and really just stick to the subject because it had to pay off in the next scene. There was a very tight progression of what needed to happen."

McLendon-Covey also said the restrictions really didn't bother her that much.

"You felt the restriction a little bit, but it wasn't difficult

to work through," she said. "It was a little bit easier actually."

McLendon-Covey said even with the restrictions on the actors, the film ended up being extremely bloated.

"It was three hours long," she said. "The first cut of the movie was like 'Titanic,' and we're in the era of 'Grand Theft Auto.' No one has the attention span to sit through a long movie."

"They actually have cut a second movie that will be featured on the DVD," she said.

"How I Met My Boyfriend's Dead Fiancee" was a unique experience for McLendon-Covey, because, aside from a brief appearance in the 2005 remake of "Bewitched," it is the only project she has done recently that was not mostly improvised.

"It was just a completely different way to work," she said. "All I can say is that improv takes a different muscle than, you know, the memorization of lines. I think it's easy to move between the two. I love them both. When you're doing an improvised film, or TV show, the blessing is that the dialogue sounds so fresh that there's nothing formulaic about the dialogue that comes out."

"But the curse is that it's so much harder to edit an improvised project because you end up getting so much gold out of it that you're torn between, 'which funny moment do I have to throw away?'" she said. "With a scripted project, you know what you're going to get."

McLendon-Covey also said even though she prefers doing improvised work, she doesn't mind doing scripted work.

"I'm just happy to be working, believe me," she said. "I'll do whatever as long as the project is good; I don't care if it's scripted or improvised. I'm more of an ideas person, and I'm more of a fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants type of person."

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IN brief

from wire reports ...

Anna Nicole Smith will be buried in Bahamas

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Anna Nicole Smith will be buried in the Bahamas, alongside her dead son, it was announced Thursday after a tearful judge left the decision up to the guardian for the model's baby daughter.

Circuit Judge Larry Seidlin steered a surprise middle course in a dispute that became more urgent by the day when the medical examiner warned that Smith's body was rapidly decomposing.

The ruling came a full two weeks after Smith died at a Florida hotel at age 39 of still-undetermined causes.

Smith's estranged mother wanted her buried in her native Texas, while Smith's boyfriend wanted her laid to rest in the Bahamas.

K-Fed appearance in family court is canceled

LOS ANGELES — An appearance in family court sought by Kevin Federline amid a child custody dispute with Britney Spears was canceled Thursday as reports surfaced that she was back in rehab.

Spears returned to the Promises Malibu Treatment Center late Wednesday, according to reports from TMZ, "The Insider" and "Extra." Her mother, Lynne Spears, drove her to the center, "Extra" and "The Insider" said.

The 25-year-old pop star previously left the Promises center Wednesday, according to "The Insider," less than a day after arriving. The center specializes in treating drug and alcohol abuse.

Last week, Spears sought treatment at a center in the Caribbean but also checked out after a day, according to various reports.

Musicians fight in Theatre Tuscaloosa's 'Amadeus'

By Keli Goodson
Senior Entertainment Reporter
■ goodson@cw.ua.edu

Theatre Tuscaloosa will be alive with the story of great composers and their rivalries beginning tonight and continuing through March 4.

"Amadeus," by Peter Shaffer, is the sensationalized story of the highly devout composer Antonio Salieri and his jealousy over gifted composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's gift, which drives him to do anything he can to destroy the famous composer.

Taylor Bridges, a senior majoring in music, plays Mozart, and said he really liked the part.

"The laugh is the most important thing," he said. Mozart's laugh was said to be very high-pitched and annoying.

"I get to go crazy on stage, and that's fun," he said.

In the play, Mozart is portrayed as a boorish, vulgar man, and compared to Salieri's devout Catholic upbringing, Salieri can't understand why God gave Mozart his gifts instead of Salieri.

Bridges said at one point Salieri says that he will "block God's voice on Earth" in order to destroy Mozart, and rejects God to complete his goal.

"Salieri was happy until he met Mozart, and realized he'd never be like him," Bridges said.

Sara Carroll, a senior majoring in theater, plays Constanze Weber, Mozart's love interest and eventual wife, in the production.

"I marry Mozart, and I'm with him from the time we marry until he dies," she said.

She said the play has been very good for her, because her character grows so much

If you go ...

Who: "Amadeus"
When: Tonight through March 4
Where: Bean-Brown Theatre, Shelton State College
Cost: \$17 adults, \$14 seniors, \$10 students, children
\$5 with Shelton State ID card

over the nine years the play takes place.

"I had to go to so many different places in myself to be her," she said.

She said the costumes are gorgeous, and the set is also beautiful, with huge doors, mirrors, and other set pieces.

"It's a great thing to watch, because we're listening to this beautiful music," Carroll said. "I love it."

"People who are familiar with the movie should come see it," Bridges said. "Hopefully, we can get everybody we can out there because it is a good piece."

"Amadeus" is playing in the Bean-Brown Theatre, located at Shelton State Community College, until March 4.

Play times are at 7:30 p.m. today, Saturday and March 1 through March 3. A 2:00 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Sunday, Wednesday and March 4.

Ticket prices are \$17 for adults, \$14 for seniors, \$10 for students and children and \$5 for Shelton State students with ID.



Submitted by Porfirio Solorzano
Sara Carroll, left, plays the part of Constanze Weber, wife of Mozart, alongside Jeff Wilson, playing the part of Antonio Salieri, in the production of "Amadeus" at the Bean-Brown Theatre today through March 4.

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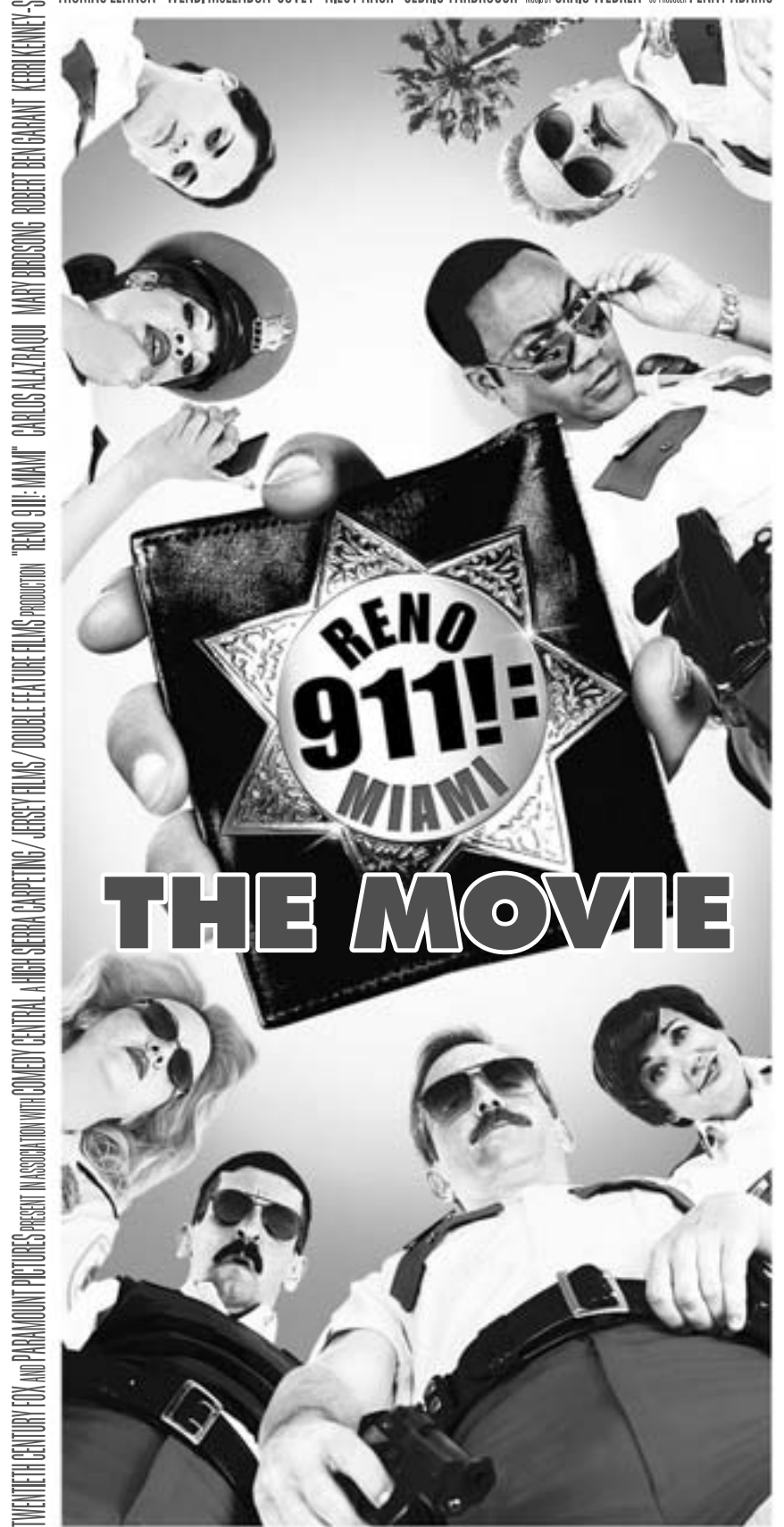
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Offense leading Tide into weekend series



CW/ T.G. Paschal

Freshman Jake Smith gets a hit at Sewell-Thomas Stadium. Smith and sophomore Kent Matthes have been keys to the Tide's offense this year.

By **BEN DAKE**
Sports Reporter
■ dake@cw.ua.edu

The bats have been hot during the first cold weeks of the season so far, and they will be a key factor in this weekend's series against the Villanova Wildcats.

The Tide is batting a combined .349 batting average, with 11 homeruns and has scored 66 runs in the first seven games, helping lead the Tide to a 6-1 record.

The Tide has also scored early on opponents this year, outscoring them 36-1 in the first inning this year. The offensive production has also had a significant impact on the pitching staff, as well.

"It just makes it easier," sophomore pitcher Tommy Hunter said.

Hunter said that knowing his team was going to be the team scoring the five, six or seven runs in a game relieved some of the stress from being on the mound.

"You don't have the mindset 'I have got to go out and I have

to beat this team by myself,'" Hunter said.

Hunter said having a strong defense behind him to field the ball helps, too, but that the offensive production is a key.

"As a pitcher, you know that those mistake pitches that you do have won't hurt you in the long run," Hunter said, "because you know that your team is going to hit that eighth inning homerun, that three-run homerun. They're going to hit the gap doubles that scores two runners from first and second."

Despite the offensive production, Hunter maintains that the pitching game plan hasn't changed.

"We're still going to throw fastballs inside, and breaking balls away," he said, "It's the same game plan, but it's a little easier this year because we have the run support that we didn't have all year last year."

Hunter said that the offensive production of sophomore outfielder Kent Matthes and freshman Jake Smith have been two of the keys of the offensive production this season.

Matthes leads the team in RBI

with 14, and also in homeruns with four.

Smith is second in the team in RBI with nine, and has posted a .370 batting average. Both players have also started in every game so far this season for the Tide.

Coach Jim Wells is also very pleased with his team's offensive production so far.

"It's been great," Wells said, "the guys have really improved, and I'm certainly proud of all the hard work those guys have put in."

Wells also said that his team's offensive production has helped him manage his pitching staff this season.

He said that having a lead

helps, because then you can put guys out on the mound that might not get a chance to pitch in different circumstances.

The offense has certainly helped the pitching staff gain more experience this season, with 10 different pitchers making appearances so far this season.

Five of those pitchers also have an undefeated record this season, and four have posted an ERA of 0.00.

Wells said the pitching rotation for this weekend's series will be Casey Kebodeaux, Miers Quigley and another pitcher who has not been announced.

The first game of the series will start at 6:30 tonight.

Track and field set for SEC championships

By **ALAN MINOR AND CYRUS NTAKIRUTINKA**
Contributing Writers

The setting will be quite familiar for both the Alabama men's and women's track and field teams this weekend, as they are set to compete at the SEC Championships in Lexington, Ky. Last month, the Tide opened their season in the Kentucky Invitational on the same track they will compete on this weekend.

"One of the reasons we went to the meet was so we could get on the facility and see what they're track was all about," women's track and field head coach Sandy Fowler said.

That familiarity appears to have given both teams an advantage over some other

schools competing this weekend, as well as some confidence due to the teams' success in the Kentucky Invitational.

In the season opener, junior Michael Cooley finished third among NCAA runners in the 400-meter and freshman Brandon Spradley finished second among the collegiate competition. On the women's side, nine members of the team achieved personal bests.

While the setting is familiar for both teams, there will be a measurable difference between the upcoming meet and the season opener.

"The environment will be totally different from when we went there in January," men's head coach Harvey Glance said. "It will be much more intense. The level of competition will be off the charts. It's

the SEC Championships to put it simply. We call it the mini-NCAAs."

Among the stiff competition in the men's field are No. 7 Auburn, No. 8 Arkansas, No. 14 Tennessee, No. 17 LSU and No. 22 Florida. The Tide women's team will also face a tough field, including No. 3 Georgia, No. 4 South Carolina, No. 5 LSU, No. 7 Tennessee, No. 7 Auburn and No. 23 Arkansas.

"It's unbelievable," Fowler said. "It's so tough. It's so strong."

Both teams are coming off strong performances this weekend at the Iowa State University Classic and the Husky Classic in Washington. Junior Michael Cooley won his third consecutive 200-meter with a time of 21.27, which places him among the Top 10 of all time

at Alabama. Junior Brandon Schneider also found himself among the Top 10, with a height of 16-01.25 in the pole vault.

In Washington, freshman Emmanuel Bor and sophomore Augustus Maiyo set the third and fourth best mile times respectively in the SEC.

On the women's side, senior Miruna Mataoanu won both the high jump and achieved an NCAA automatic mark for the second straight week.

This past weekend's performances have given Glance and Fowler a strong sense of confidence that the team will perform this weekend despite the tough task ahead.

"[I] expect our veteran athletes to perform well because they've done it before," Glance said.

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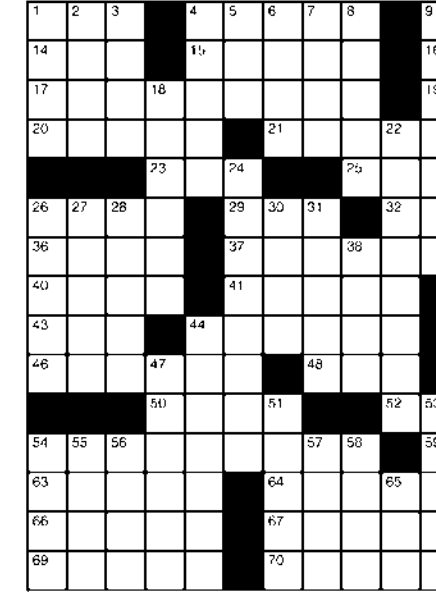
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 - Reverence
 - Bed canopy
 - Old Pisa bread?
 - Cut unevenly
 - "Norma ___"
 - Exploded
 - Goof
 - Lass
 - Mau strings
 - Aftward
 - Church court
 - First mass-produced car
 - Word before room or house
 - Gray of face
 - Disfigure
 - Columnist Smith
 - Unlike capital letters
 - Happen twice
 - Render weaponless
 - Dire
 - Converge
 - One more time
 - Buddy
 - Like some windows
 - Bangor's state
 - Wallflower-ish
- DOWN**
- Clerical wear
 - Uh-huh
 - Square of three
 - Delivered an address
 - Beta Kappa
 - Misplaced
 - Absorbed by
 - Inventor Nikola
 - Legendary
 - Quagmire
 - Judah's son
 - Sprinkle after a shower
 - If all ___ fails...
 - Puzzle in pieces
 - Outward
 - Regal
 - Photo book
 - Silvers' TV role
 - Words to live by
 - Viral lump
 - White heron
 - Jazz combos
 - Potting soil
 - Team race
 - Tipper or Al
 - Grass chomper
 - Scared
 - Come into view
 - Chairwoman's title



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Solutions

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | | | | | |
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| 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Be the first student to bring in today's sudoku puzzle completed to the Office of Student Media, next door to Reese Phifer hall. and **win** a \$50 gift certificate to 12 Steakhouse

6	9	E	1	5	7	8																				
	7	3	6	C	2	8	A	B	5																	
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				A	5				2	7																
D		7		2	6	C	9				8															
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8	7	B										E														
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		4					2	B		G			C	E												

A College Girl Named Joe by Aaron Warner

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■ GYMNASTICS

Small in stature, Lebegern still stands out

By DAN SELLERS
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Standing a mere 4-foot, 11-inches tall and wearing what could be the biggest smile in Coleman Coliseum, freshman gymnast Ricki Lebegern is far from intimidating.

However, Lebegern is now sporting a confidence level that — if you could measure its height — is soaring well above five feet tall and is helping the diminutive athlete make a big splash in Alabama gymnastics.

“The first few meets, being in front of a big crowd, was definitely different,” Lebegern said. “I was nervous, but I’ve gotten more confident being in front of the crowd, and I’ve learned to control that.”

Lebegern is riding high after posting career-high scores of 39.35 in successive meets. Her performance at Arkansas a week ago was good enough to capture her first all-around title.

She will look to continue the streak as the gymnastics team faces off against the North Carolina Tar Heels in Coleman Coliseum tonight at 7:30.

Gymnastics coach Sarah Patterson said she wasn’t surprised by Lebegern’s performance boost, but she admitted she was a little concerned about Lebegern’s confidence level.

“We expected Ricki to be a great gymnast but she didn’t



CW/ T.G. Paschal

Freshman gymnast Ricki Lebegern competes on the floor exercise during Alabama’s last meet in Coleman Coliseum against Kentucky on Feb. 2.

know if she was going to be good enough,” Patterson said. “When we recruited her, I literally had to convince her that she was going to fit in.

“I told her, ‘Yes, we have all

[that tradition], but our program has been largely built around gymnasts like you.’ Now, I’m kind of reminding her about that conversation.”

Lebegern said she might

have been influenced by the butterflies brought on by the big crowd early in the season, but she is glad that the coaches convinced her to come to Alabama.

“Going out there at first, doing all four events as a freshman in front of a big crowd when I’m used to a crowd of about 100 people, was tough,” Lebegern said. “[The coaching staff] had confidence in me the whole time, but when they recruited me they did have to convince me.

“I told them ‘I’m not an elite gymnast. You’re a top school.’ So, she had to kind of talk me into it.”

Even though she doesn’t tower over the competition literally, Lebegern displays explosive power during her routines.

“Most people look at me as the little short one, but then everyone tells me how big my vaults are,” she said.

Patterson said, “She has tremendous power. It’s really deceptive when you look at her.”

The freshman’s improved routines have been especially crucial to a team that has been banged up on the injury front. Freshman phenomenon and three-time all-around champion Kassi Price suffered a stress-related injury in her left foot and has been working on

just two events. Senior Erin Rightley has also been banged up, and a torn ACL sidelined freshman Jacqueline Shealy after the first meet.

Lebegern said her goal for this season was to maintain

her confidence level.

“Staying confident. Trying to build confidence up for my teammates,” she said. “I don’t want them to have to get all nervous, because I’m up there.”

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Ferguson Center and Bryant Museum locations open tomorrow before the game