

The Crimson White

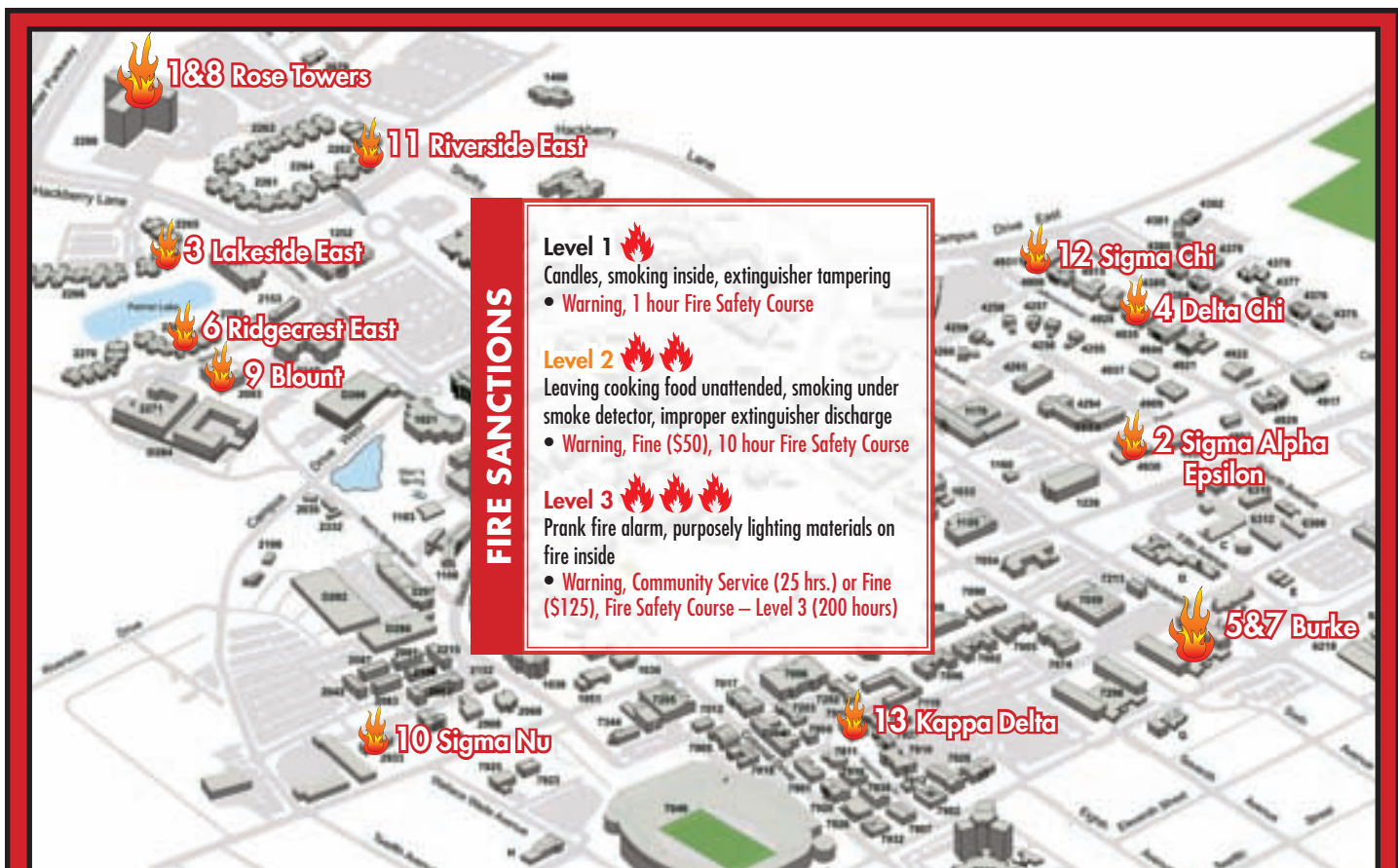
Friday, February 4, 2011

Serving the University of Alabama since 1894

Vol. 117, Issue 79

Where there's smoke...

Fire, smoking, steam and malfunctions send students out of dorms



Building name	Location of fire	Date fire occurred	Cause of fire
1 Rose Towers	Inside Apartment	2/2/2010	Cooking fire (oil)
2 Sigma Alpha Epsilon	Inside House	2/11/2010	Fire in trash can
3 Lakeside East	On Apartment Door	2/16/2010	Paper on door set on fire
4 Delta Chi	Inside House	2/17/2010	Smoldering trash can
5 Mary Burke West	Cooking Equipment	4/23/2010	Cooking equipment fire (oil)
6 Ridgcrest East	Outside	4/25/2010	Lightning strike (tree)
7 Mary Burke West	Inside Apartment	6/15/2010	Burning food (stove)
8 Rose Towers	Inside Apartment	8/17/2010	Burning food (oven)
9 Blount	Outside	8/24/2010	Vehicle fire (engine)
10 Sigma Nu	Outside	9/2/2010	Item in Dumpster on fire
11 Riverside East	Outside	9/30/2010	Cigarette in plastic planter
12 Sigma Chi	Inside Bedroom	1/16/2011	Item on fire from candle
13 Kappa Delta	Outside	1/18/2011	Electrical service on fire

By William Evans
Senior Staff Reporter
wjevans@crimson.ua.edu

said Jake Clapp, a freshman majoring in legal studies who lives in Ridgcrest South. "It's unnecessary, to be honest. The fire trucks come, which is completely out of hand, two to three times a month."

Stefano Pindo, a freshman on the pre-law track who also lives in Ridgcrest South, said residents

are not informed by the resident advisers, housing staff or the Tuscaloosa Fire Department of the causes behind the fire alarms and instead listen to rumors about the reason for their exodus out of the residence hall.

"The RAs will never tell you, but they know, and the fire department will never tell us

because it's for some reason secretive," Pindo said.

Tuscaloosa City Fire Marshall John Brook said fire alarms can be triggered by a number of causes other than fires themselves, such as a rare system malfunction, harmless smoke

See **FIRES**, page 5

New greek houses limit dorm space

By Bethany Blair
Staff Reporter
bablair1@crimson.ua.edu

Returning students will not be guaranteed on-campus housing for the 2011-2012 school year because of the growing demand for greek housing, according to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of Housing and Residential Communities website.

"Because of the growth in the greek

See **HOUSING**, page 2

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 3 edition of The Crimson White, the "Board to consider house for Sigma Chi" article stated that Alpha Gamma Delta is renovating their current facility. In actuality, they are up for Stage 3 (Schematic Design) approval for a new facility that is to be constructed on one of the new lots. There are four sororities constructing new facilities - Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Delta Pi, Delta Delta Delta and Delta Gamma, said Gentry McCreary, director of greek affairs. The Crimson White regrets the error and is happy to set the record straight.



Egan's Bar on The Strip is one of the only venues in Tuscaloosa that welcomes groups who play only original music.

Bars limit original music

By Alex Cohen
Staff Reporter
accohen@bama.ua.edu

Over the past few years, the number of bars that allow bands to play only their own original music has diminished. Local bands that play only originals, such as Glibella, believe bars should be more accommodating of their ilk. Others understand the economics of the practice.

To Glibella, a band uninterested in covering other tunes, Tuscaloosa's bar situation is disheartening.

Egan's, as far as Glibella band members know, is the only bar where a band is free to play exclusively its own music.

Mellow Mushroom, another bar known

for original bands, recently stopped booking acts due to renovations.

The BottleTree falls in line with Egan's, but it's 50 miles away in Birmingham.

"It's a big downfall for Tuscaloosa," said Cliff Turner, guitarist for Glibella. "Egan's is the only bar here that glorifies an original band."

Other musicians feel that bands must conform to the demand for covers because covers draw crowds to bars.

"Money talks, and covers bring people to bars," said Reed Watson, the house drummer at Bo's Bar. "Sure it's a shame, but you have to [play covers], even if you don't necessarily enjoy it."

See **BANDS**, page 5

National Hispanic Scholarship eliminated

By Taylor Holland
Senior Staff Reporter
tholland1@crimson.ua.edu

Beginning with the fall 2011 semester, the National Hispanic Scholarship package will no longer be offered to incoming UA freshmen and other students who do not already have the scholarship.

However, students who currently hold National Hispanic Scholarships will not be affected, said Cathy Andreen, director of media relations.

Andreen said the scholarship was eliminated because the National Merit and National Achievement Scholarships are awarded by the National Merit Corporation and the criteria are more rigorous than what the College Board uses for the National Hispanic Scholarship recognition.

See **SCHOLARSHIP**, page 3

Tide travels to Knoxville for road test

By Marquavius Burnett
Sports Reporter
msburnett1@crimson.ua.edu

After hosting two consecutive home games, the Alabama men's basketball team gets back on the road, traveling to Knoxville, Tenn., to face the Tennessee Volunteers Saturday.

Alabama (14-7, 6-1) is currently on a four-game winning streak and has won nine of its last 10 games, following a double-digit victory over Mississippi State Wednesday night. So far this season, the Tide has struggled on the road, winning only two of nine games away from Coleman Coliseum. Head coach Anthony Grant said the game location does not matter.

"It's the next game on our schedule," Grant said. "Tennessee is a very good team. We will have to be prepared no matter whether we're home or away. If you're going to play a good opponent, at

See **TIDE**, page 5



CW | John Michael Simpson

Sophomore Tony Mitchell goes up for two points against LSU in Tuscaloosa last Saturday. Against Mississippi State, Mitchell scored a career-high 23 points and will need to take that confidence into Knoxville this weekend as the Tide faces the Volunteers.



GO GET THE NEWS

ON THE MENU

LAKESIDE Lunch

BBQ Wings
Baked Potato
Corn on the Cob
Chicken & Vegetable Teriyaki
Mozzarella Garden Burger
Dinner

Chicken Fried Steak with Smoky Red Pepper
Baked Potato
Fresh Steamed Broccoli
Corn on the Cob
Mozzarella Garden Burger (vegetarian)

BURKE

Fried Fish
Herb Roasted Potatoes
Nachos Supreme
Western Omelet
Cavatappi Ale Zucchini (vegetarian)

BRYANT

Baked Tilapia
Hush Puppies
Fresh Cauliflower
Stir-Fried Vegetables
Vegetarian Fajita

FRESH FOOD

Baked Tilapia
Green Beans
Italian Garlic and Herb Rice
Traditional Stuffed Shells (vegetarian)
Spinach & Italian Vegetable Risotto

ON THE CALENDAR

TODAY

What: Alabama Honor Band Festival

Where: Moody Music Building

When: Untimed event

What: Campus MovieFest Filming Week

Where: Ferguson Center, Suite 356

When: Untimed event

What: Honor Band Spectrum Concert

Where: Moody Music Building

When: 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

What: Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

Where: Student Rec Center

When: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

What: Alabama Wind Ensemble featuring Joe Alessi, trombone

Where: Moody Music Building

When: 7:30 p.m.

What: Sustained Dialogue Campus Student Forum

Where: Anderson Room, Ferguson Center

When: 1 - 2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

What: The Miracle Worker performance - \$10 Children/Students, \$14 Seniors, \$17 Adults

Where: Bean-Brown Theatre - Shelton State Community College Martin Campus

When: 7:30 - 10 p.m.

Submit your events to
calendar@cw.ua.edu

The Crimson White
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February 4, 2011

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The University of Alabama cannot influence editorial decisions and editorial opinions are those of the editorial board and do not represent the official opinions of the University.

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HOUSING

Continued from page 1

community and the need for new sorority housing, several residence halls will be razed in summer 2011, to support this growing demand," the website states in response to the question, "Why are returning students not guaranteed campus housing?"

Gentry McCreary, director of greek affairs, said the goal of greek growth is not to eliminate dorm space, but to reduce the size of each sorority's chapter. As each greek chapter grows exponentially, McCreary said it's only a matter of time before they'll have to expand further across campus.

"The fact of the matter is, most of our greek organizations have doubled in size in the last seven years, and they've simply outgrown their facilities," McCreary said in an emailed statement. "We currently have approximately 1,050 students liv-

ing in greek housing on campus.

"With the construction of four new sorority houses and the planned construction of at least two new fraternity houses, this number should continue to grow," he said.

The plan is to add four new sororities by 2017, McCreary said. Delta Gamma will be first, followed by additional chapters in 2013, 2015 and 2017. This is necessary, McCreary said, to accommodate a greek population that has doubled since 2003.

Although the population has doubled, the amount of greek housing has not.

But this expansion is not in vain, McCreary said. Old greek houses won't simply be torn down or abandoned; they will be recycled.

"Our growth has also assisted many of our newer organizations find housing on campus — as existing groups have constructed new facilities, their old houses have been available for purchase by new groups without permanent housing," McCreary

said.

"The process is a partnership between the University, the chapter and each chapter's alumni housing corporation," McCreary said. "We work together every step of the way, beginning with architectural selection and financing all the way through the construction process."

Ben Fisher, a junior majoring in international studies, said he found Housing's response to this issue troubling. Fisher, who lives in Ridgecrest West, said he questioned how the University allocates resources to greek life versus on-campus housing.

"I've always wondered how much money the University actually gives sororities and fraternities because I know they're private organizations and chapters," Fisher said. "But I don't see the point in giving so much space to them, especially when it's taking away the availability of freshman housing."

Although Fisher said he hasn't had any issues finding housing in the past, he thinks the University is obligated to keep it that way.

"I think they should leave it up to the sororities to find their own housing options," Fisher said. "It shouldn't be the University's problem to try to make space for them."

Daniel Barnes, a freshman majoring in telecommunications and film, said the University has been constantly reminding him that space is limited since the end of first semester.

"Obviously we [freshmen] have to live on campus, so less dorm space would be a big issue," Barnes said. "I get a lot of e-mails about how space is limited, but we're not guaranteed a spot anymore. But greeks don't have to worry about it because they have their house."

For more information about housing options, recontracting and other frequently asked questions, visit the Housing and Residential Communities' website at housing.ua.edu.

CAMPUS CRIME:

(Jan. 28 to Jan. 31)

Compiled by Jennie Kushner
Senior Staff Reporter
jfkush@gmail.com

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA II

Time: 3:23 a.m.

Date: Jan. 28

Location: 100 Block of Hackberry Lane

THEFT OF PROPERTY III

Time: 11:15 a.m.

Date: Jan. 28

Location: 900 Block of Bryant Drive

UNLAWFUL B&E OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

Time: 5:34 p.m.

Date: Jan. 28

Location: Unknown

UNLAWFUL B&E OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

Time: 6:21 p.m.

Date: Jan. 28

Location: 900 Block of University Boulevard

HARASSING COMMUNICATIONS

Time: 5:40 p.m.

Date: Jan. 28

Location: 300 Block of Bryant Drive

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA II

Time: 5:39 a.m.

Date: Jan. 29

Location: 100 Block of Hackberry Lane

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

Time: 4:03 a.m.

Date: Jan. 29

Location: 100 Block of Hackberry Lane

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF III

Time: 3 a.m.

Date: Jan. 29

Location: 400 Block of Jefferson Avenue

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE III-HARASSMENT

Time: 10:46 a.m.

Date: Jan. 29

Location: 400 Block of 7th Avenue

THEFT OF PROPERTY II

Time: 3:07 p.m.

Date: Jan. 29

Location: 900 Block of 2nd Street

POSS/USE OF CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

Time: 10:06 p.m.

Date: Jan. 29

Location: 300 Block of McFarland Boulevard

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF III

Time: 2:01 a.m.

Date: Jan. 30

Location: 600 Block of Jefferson Avenue

THEFT OF PROPERTY II

Time: 9:35 p.m.

Date: Jan. 30

Location: 400 Block of 5th Avenue East

UNLAWFUL B&E OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

Time: 1:09 a.m.

Date: Jan. 31

Location: 900 Block of Presidential Circle

THEFT OF PROPERTY III

Time: 8:38 a.m.

Date: Jan. 31

Location: 900 Block of 2nd Street

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF III

Time: 10:24 a.m.

Date: Jan. 31

Location: 100 Block of Hackberry Lane

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Top 10 For This Week

1. Arcade Fire - Ready to Start
2. Muse - Uprising
3. Sufjan Stevens - I Walked
4. A Day to Remember - All I Want
5. Deep South Dread - The Battle
6. We Killed The Dinosaurs - Revolution
7. Sparrow and the Ghost - 17 Ghosts
8. Soundgarden - Black Rain
9. Interpol - Barricade
10. Neon Trees - Animal

*Put together by James Piazza

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Tide football players in Super Bowl



Former Alabama players Charlie Peprah (26) and Anthony Madison (9) played in the same defensive backfield when they were with the

Crimson Tide. In 2006, the Green Bay Packers drafted Peprah in the fifth round while Madison was signed as an undrafted free agent

by the Pittsburgh Steelers. The two will now take the field on opposite teams in Super Bowl XLV on Sunday.

CW File

FAC funds student organizations

By William Evans
Senior Staff Reporter
wjevans@crimson.ua.edu

"Some [organizations] get tabled because they didn't register with The SOURCE."

— Mark David Kennedy

Student organizations can consult the Financial Affairs Committee to obtain funds for projects and activities that benefit the student body as a whole, according to the FAC's funding guidelines.

Mark David Kennedy, the SGA Treasurer and a member of the committee, said the FAC will allocate money depending on the needs of the student organization.

The extent of the funding disbursements is limited by caps per fiscal year, which began October 2010 and ends September 2011 for this fiscal year, Kennedy said.

Per fiscal year, the cap on travel expenses is \$1,600 and the cap on general supplies and advertising is \$500, whereas the cap on equipment is \$1,500 per two fiscal years, he said.

Kennedy said the FAC manages a total budget of \$120,000.

To qualify for FAC funds, student organizations must be registered with The SOURCE, an online community designed to promote student organizations, and have at least one officer attend a SOURCE Foresight workshop each fiscal year, which instructs the officer about

FAC funding, Kennedy said.

Kennedy said he has seen student organizations have their funding requests denied because they failed to register.

"Some [organizations] get tabled because they didn't register with The SOURCE," he said.

As for the diversity of requests, Kennedy said the FAC hears from a variety of student organizations throughout its seven meetings of the year but nonetheless notices a consistency of requests from certain groups.

"I do see familiar faces," he said.

Student organizations that meet the conditions for funding on time and have not exceeded their funding caps per fiscal year are usually awarded the money they request, Kennedy said.

Because the FAC has never extinguished its budget, the committee has not been forced to design a strategy for apportioning money to qualifying student organizations when funds run tight.

"As the University keeps growing, we might need to look into that," he said. "We have not gone over the cap."

The FAC is student-led with members drawn from the SGA Senate, the Source Board of Governors — a coordinating body that assists student organizations — and the Student Leaders Council — a group comprised of leaders of various student organizations, according to the FAC's funding guidelines.

Four SGA senators, three representatives from the SOURCE Board of Governors and three representatives from the Student Leaders Council vote on the allocation decisions for each FAC meeting before the funding requests are then sent to the SGA Senate for approval, Kennedy said.

"We try to make [the committee] as diverse as possible," he said.

Under the newly approved SGA constitution, which will go into effect in the fall, the number of SGA senators on the FAC

will increase to six and the non-SGA presence will be decreased to two members. However, the SGA is currently pushing forward legislation that would divide FAC representation evenly between SGA and non-SGA members.

During an FAC meeting, SGA Vice President of Financial Affairs Edward Patton and SGA Treasurer Kennedy preside over the meeting but do not cast votes. An adviser also attends meetings but does not vote.

Erica Wade, community service co-chair for the student group National Council for Negro Women and a sophomore majoring in English and African American studies, said her experience as an FAC representative in the Student Leaders Council made applying for funding requests more manageable.

"There is a very large amount of instructions that are not necessarily easy but by serving on the committee, I have a greater sense of the application process," she said.

She said without being familiar with the procedures of the FAC, student groups may run the risk of exhausting their per fiscal year caps on funds.

She said the process is effective overall, however.

"It can be done in an effective way," she said.

SCHOLARSHIP

Continued from page 1

"Since the [PSAT] is a requirement for the National Merit Competition as well as for the National Hispanic Scholars, the decision was made that students must qualify for the National Merit Competition and be named finalists to receive the scholarship package," she said.

In order to qualify for the 2011 National Merit Scholarship, students must have scored at least a 210 on their PSAT in October 2009, their junior year of high school.

The score is determined by totaling three sections on the PSAT, the critical reading section, the math section and the writing scores section. A student can score a maximum of 80 points on each of the three sections, and a perfect score would be a 240.

Andrew Martinez, a junior majoring in telecommunication and film, said he felt the University was doing the right thing by doing away with the scholarship.

"I feel like they're encouraging competition," Martinez said. "If the National Hispanic Scholarship Board wasn't holding its recipients to the highest standards, it's not fair to those students receiving other scholarships. These tighter standards will push all students to work harder

in high school and college to receive scholarships and other types of financial aid."

Kirk Bonacci, a junior, said he was pleased to learn that the University was not going to take the scholarship away from students who currently hold it.

"I would have been pretty upset if I was a recipient of the National Hispanic Scholarship and then poof, they took it away from me," he said. "But they are not doing that. They're just not offering it to incoming students. That seems fair to me. Hopefully there will be some other form of scholarship offered to Hispanic students coming into the University. Diversity here at UA will help it grow."

The Department of Undergraduate Scholarships said that, as far as they have been told, the National Achievement Scholarship will still be offered to incoming students in the fall semester.

According to the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, 107 entering students earned the National Merit Scholarship in 2009, the most recent year recorded in the University's online Factbook. A total of 26 entering students earned the National Achievement Scholarship, while 22 students entered the University having earned the National Hispanic Scholarship, the Factbook also states.

3 AWESOME BANDS

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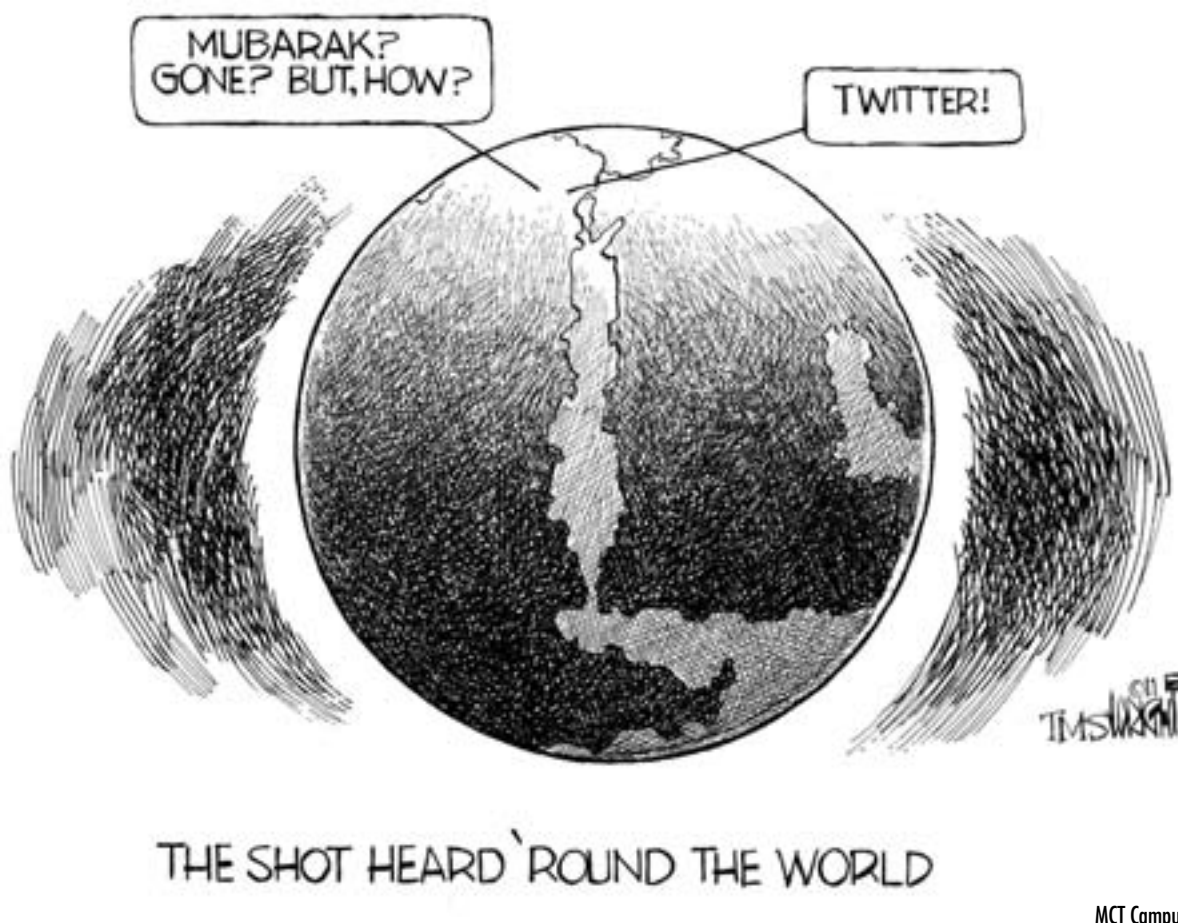
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Friday,
February 4, 2011
Editor • Tray Smith
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Page 4

YOUR VIEW

"Israel is not an ally when it continues to violate international law in its illegal occupation and colonization of the remaining 22 percent of the original Palestinian homeland. It is time for the U.S. to withhold aid to Israel, as leverage to change Israel's bad behavior. Oh and cut all aid to its Arab neighbors as well."

— **David Blake Jones**,
in response to
"Israel: America's vital ally in the middle East"

"I know that there have been many nights when I and my roommates have called the RA line to report noise and vandalism going on outside our door. Usually there is no visible response. It is getting out of hand."

— **Wellyna J**,
in response to "Vandalism continues at Ridgcrest"

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WE WELCOME YOUR OPINIONS

Letters to the editor must be less than 300 words and guest columns less than 800. Send submissions to letters@cw.ua.edu. Submissions must include the author's name, year, major and daytime phone number. Phone numbers are for verification and will not be published. Students should also include their year in school and major. For more information, call 348-6144. The CW reserves the right to edit all submissions.

'Street smart' actually means lazy

By Ben Friedman

I've often heard students describe themselves as "street smart" rather than "book smart." I take "street smarts" to describe some exceptional type of savvy or sales skills that can only be obtained outside of the four walls of a classroom and I take "book smarts" to refer to rigorous academic study. It is becoming abundantly clear, however, that "street smarts" is just a disguised synonym of laziness.

When we look at the term "street smarts" itself, it implies that such skills were literally learned on the street, as if one who possesses them was thrust into a tough situation early in life and had to wheel and deal on the street to make ends meet.

Don't get me wrong, this wheeling and dealing does describe the lives of certain people (and probably a few at this university), but the majority of the people who carelessly throw around the term "street smarts" were never thrust into such situations.

We go to the University of Alabama, one of the best public universities in the region. I think it's safe to say that, except for a few rare cases, the majority of us never grew up acquiring Slumdog Millionaire-esque street smarts.

I also used to throw around the term in high school. The "book smart" people I criticized, however, were not those who possessed an arsenal of useless factoids, as I would have liked to believe. They were people who worked incredibly hard, studying to make high grades on upcoming tests. Though they may not have cared about the subject they were studying (or even memorizing), they knew

that the good grade they earned, along with a portfolio of other good grades, would significantly increase their chances of success in life.

It's incredibly odd that this sense of "doing whatever it takes," even if the manifestations of such labor may not appear until later down the road, is often the greatest quality that those who we say have street smarts possess. We may ridicule a "book smart" friend for buckling down and relentlessly studying for an exam in a subject they care little about, but this same determination is the type that results in promotions and new opportunities later in life.

We so often view street smarts and book smarts as mutually exclusive, yet we have absolutely no basis of observation off which we can make this assumption. Though Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, possessed an incredible amount of creative social savvy that simply couldn't be learned in the classroom, he was also a Harvard student. To even be accepted at Harvard, he had to have pored over his books in high school.

If any profession or personality type would epitomize the savvy and deal making we associate with street smarts, it would be politicians. When we look at our long list of U.S. Presidents, however, it's amazing to see, with only a few exceptions, how many of them attended Ivy League schools and excelled in their academic pursuits.

Donald Trump took an interest in the "street smart" versus "book smart" debate in an episode of the third season of *The Apprentice*. Scrappy contestants

with a high school diploma were pitted against contestants with a college degree and found, unsurprisingly, that the ones with the college degrees came out on top. Though this was a rather anti-climactic result, it helps put to rest the notion that studying academically is of secondary importance.

We must not assume that those who we consider street smart are street smart because they have made some open denunciation of the importance of studying and classroom learning. In most cases, they simply don't have the opportunity to study in an advanced classroom setting. Yes, we may cite the occasional example of an incredible successful outlier like Bill Gates, who dropped out of Harvard, but the main mass of research shows that the more one engages in higher classroom education (or book smarts), the greater one's chances of success in life are.

I'll make the concession that there are many life skills that cannot be learned in the classroom. In fact, I have often found through the course of my own life that many of the skills I anticipate will be the most useful later in life are those I have learned outside of the classroom. This, however, is very different than implying that street smarts are in some way a higher ideal to aspire to.

So, the next time you hear somebody throwing around the term "street smarts," carefully consider their situation. More often than not, street smarts are nothing more than disguised laziness.

Ben Friedman is a sophomore majoring in social entrepreneurship. His column runs weekly on Fridays.

National Signing Day in review: Good for Alabama, bad for TV

By Tyler Rigdon

ESPN has always been the most innovative entity at marketing the random. Spanning channel after channel, they have unearthed ratings through a multitude of sporting outlets. The general public visits ESPN. The leftovers visit ESPN2 for their specified, offbeat interests. Those who need a quick sports fix or just love an unsalted SportsCenter flip to ESPNNews. Fans searching to relive "better times" or failed ESPN originals find ESPN Classic. Hell, who doesn't enjoy a good re-run of "Stump the Schwab" at two in the morning? Those suffering from dementia enjoy ESPN's variety of alternate channels, which play more soul-draining background music than sporting events. Usually, 17 students at Dartmouth are intently watching their men's squash team on ESPN.

However, ESPN's ratings rose dramatically this Wednesday thanks to the development of a relatively new market. The center of attention in the sporting world had deserted February basketball for the sport of hat selection with a side of awkward banter.

That could only mean that National Signing Day had come.

For hours, the general public, including myself, was glued to televisions, anxious to see where the next big recruit would go, his potential on the college field and his selection antics.

At times during the day, it seemed like Spike TV, Soap Net and Animal Planet all conglomerated onto ESPN. It was manly, drama-filled Darwinism at its best. The athletes were physical beasts. Some of them, including Cyrus Kouandjio, were involved in plot twists that would leave "LOST" writers scratching their heads. Then, there was Isaiah Crowell, who brought out a miniature bulldog in some sort of Snuggie after he chose Georgia over Alabama. The awkward conversation that followed may have been the most unbearable of the day.

Speaking of Alabama, how did they fair in signing day? ESPN ranks the Tide as the number two recruiting class in the nation following Florida State. The tricky aspect of their ranking is the added weight that they attach to ESPN 150 recruits, of which Florida State had 12 and Alabama had 10. Rivals, which I believe to be a more legitimate recruiting source, has Alabama as the top ranked recruiting class based on the average talent of

the players acquired to this point.

As dominant as the state of Alabama has been in football recently, the same can be said for Alabama and Auburn on the recruiting trail. Both teams finished in the top five in recruiting, but Alabama was by far more impressive. Think about it. Alabama has a young, experienced team. Auburn has a young, inexperienced team. For Alabama to out-recruit the defending national champions is one thing, but for Alabama to out-recruit the defending national champions when they can offer playing time is another thing. While it may take Auburn two or three years to rebuild, Alabama will constantly be near the top thanks to consistent recruiting.

Great recruits always have the hype, but which ones will show the potential their first year on campus? Looking at Alabama's committed class of players, I see three athletes who have the ability to be stand out when they arrive on campus. If Jadeveon Clowney (who will break someone's heart with his decision on February 14th) and Kouandjio commit to Alabama, it would be easy to say that they would be early impact players, but you can't count your unsigned emotional teenagers before

they sign.

Zavier Dickson (4-star recruit, DE) is the player I predict will have the most impact on the team. In an Alabama defense with a wealth of experience and talent, the defensive line is possibly the weakest area. It will be interesting to see, due to his size, whether he will add bulk to play the line in a three-four defense or focus on speed to play both linebacker and down lineman where Dont'a Hightower and Courtney Upshaw excel.

Trey DePriest (5-star recruit, MLB) has received much hype this offseason as the number one middle linebacker in the nation. He is the typical Alabama linebacker due to his strength and quickness. However, Alabama is extremely deep at the linebacker position. It will be interesting to see how Nick Saban and company use him in the defensive rotation.

This may come to many as a surprise, but the third player who can have an immediate impact is Marvin Shinn (4 star recruit, WR). With the exit of Julio Jones, Alabama's receiving core will mostly consist of faster, quick-strike receivers. Shinn, 6-foot-4 180 lbs, has the opportunity to add weight during the offseason and become the possession receiver in a

group of explosive receivers. It would also be an added benefit for an inexperienced AJ McCarron to have a possession receiver reminiscent of Jones.

The team that benefitted most from this recruiting season is the Georgia Bulldogs. They finished in the top 10 of the standings, largely based upon the wealth of talent that the state of Georgia delivered this year. Honestly, I predicted them to be a top ten team next year, which I admit is far-fetched. However, they have a strong, young quarterback in Aaron Murray and an excellent coach in Mark Richt to lay the foundation of this team. I expect Georgia will re-enter the national spotlight within the next few years.

This year's signing day has come and gone, but the media fiasco, hype and excitement of that day will live on as these young players make the transition to the football field. Those athletes who prevail will forever bask in the glory, and those who bust will forever be the butt ends of jokes. Just remember — it all spawned from the selection of a single hat.

Tyler Rigdon is a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering.

Why they all seem to hate us

By Michael Annes

Why does so much of the world, particularly the Muslim world, hate the United States? Why did the 9/11 terrorist attacks happen? A common explanation is that extremist Muslims "hate our freedom" and our way of life, and want to destroy it.

There are a few problems with this theory. It doesn't explain secular terrorist attacks. Looking at the 462 terrorist attacks between 1980 and 2004, the country with the most suicide bombings was Sri Lanka. Those attacks were committed by the Tamil Tigers, a secular Marxist group that invented the idea of strapping bombs to your chest. It also doesn't explain the failure of focusing on Western lifestyle's wickedness and freedom as a recruiting tactic for holy war against the West. For example, Ayatollah Khomeini (the Supreme Leader of Iran between 1979 and 1989) tried during his rule to start a jihad against America because of the supposed immorality of American culture. His efforts failed, as not many people are willing to fight and die because of how strangers halfway around the world live their lives.

So then why do they hate America? One of the main reasons is the U.S. government's aid to Israel. Israel is seen as invading Muslim holy land, as well as committing terrible crimes against the Palestinians. For example, during Israel's most recent war, the Israeli military damaged Gaza's water and sewage treatment facilities, and, through trade restrictions, is preventing the people of Gaza from buying the supplies needed to repair the facilities, forcing Gaza to survive on untreated, disease-ridden water. These and other barbaric tactics incite hatred not only of Israel but also of the United States, because of its strong and unquestioning support of Israel.

Another source of anti-American sentiment is the installation of pro-U.S. puppet governments in Middle Eastern countries. From the former Shah of Iran to the Saudi dictatorship, American puppet states have long incited hatred in the Muslim world. According to Paul Wolfowitz, one of the Bush administration's most notorious war criminals, "[American] presence [in Saudi Arabia] over the past 12 years has been a source of enormous difficulty for a friendly government. It's been a huge recruiting device for al-Qaeda. In fact if you look at [Osama] bin Laden, one of his principle grievances was the presence of so-called crusader forces on the holy land, Mecca and Medina." Remember the widespread anger over the "Ground Zero Mosque"? Imagine if, rather than a peaceful mosque, it was an Iranian military base. That's how people in the Middle East feel.

The number of Muslim civilians killed in American operations is another major source of hatred. This includes not only the current wars, but also the Iraqi trade sanctions during the decade preceding 9/11. For the first eight months of sanctions, Iraq could not even transport food. After that, the U.S. continued to block vital humanitarian goods. Trucks needed to deliver food were blocked, along with pipes needed to transport water. Water tankers were blocked during a time of severe drought. When asked about the hundreds of thousands of children that had died because of these tactics, Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the UN and, later, Secretary of State during the Clinton administration, replied, "We think the price is worth it."

We can't protect ourselves from terrorism by invading countries and allowing innocent civilians to die. Even if some of the people killed are terrorists, many aren't, and those deaths only provoke more terrorism. We don't have to get rid of our freedom, religion or our Western culture to stop terrorist attacks; we only need to get rid of the government that creates the hatred that provokes them.

Michael Annes is a freshman majoring in math and economics.

Students dive for Red Cross

By Brock Brett
Contributing Writer

Students will have the opportunity Feb. 12 to support the West Alabama American Red Cross by diving into an outdoor pool – in the winter.

The Polar Bear Plunge will be from 10 a.m. to noon at the Student Recreation Center Outdoor Pool Complex.

Early registration will be going on until Feb. 10. The fee is \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students. Day-of registration is available and costs \$10 for students and \$15 for non-students. The registration form is available online at urec.ua.edu.

Christine Hackman, an aquatics graduate assistant, said she would be happy for the number of participants to break 100.

The first 50 participants will receive free coffee mugs,

IF YOU GO ...

- **What:** Polar Bear Plunge
- **Where:** Rec Outdoor pool
- **When:** Feb. 12, 10 a.m. to noon
- **Cost:** \$5 for students

and there will be heated locker rooms, showers and hot chocolate for participants. Participants should bring a bathing suit, towels and warm clothes. The slide will also be open for the plunge.

Hackman said she got the idea to have a Polar Plunge because they are popular in her home state of New York. She said she wanted to make this event fun since participants may be hesitant to jump in a

cold pool. She said she hopes to make the event annual.

The Red Cross is a key asset for families who suffer from fires and other tragedies because they relocate families to temporary housing, Hackman said.

"We really admire what they do, so we want to give back," she said.

Hackman said there will be a costume contest at 10:30 a.m. on the day of the event. The participant with the most school spirit will win. After jumping in the pool in costume, the winner will be awarded a pool party at the Recreation Center for 150 friends.

"One of the things we are so proud of is our relationship with UA," said Oscar Barnes, executive director of the West Alabama chapter of the American Red Cross.

Barnes said this event is a time when talents are shared

so the community benefits.

"Everyone has a good time," Barnes said. "We enjoy it, and the funds go to provide service."

Barnes said the American Red Cross is appreciative of the University, and they couldn't have put on the Polar Plunge without their help.

Lindsay Malone, a graduate student in the advertising and public relations program who plans on participating in the event, said she was going to prepare to take the plunge by running a 5K that morning.

"I am looking forward to the Polar Plunge because my hometown in Michigan just got 12 inches of snow, and it will be a nice reminder of what I left back home," Malone said. "I also like to stay active on campus and this seems like a fun event to get my friends together and do something sporadic and different."

FIRES

Continued from page 1

triggering a smoke detector, burning of popcorn in the microwave and vandalism.

"There's always going to be the instance where a fire alarm is pulled and there is not a fire," he said.

Brook said TFD's protocol involves a strategy to minimize the impact of false fire alarms. Instead of rushing all vehicles to the scene, one vehicle does so and reports to the other "non-emergency units" if a threat is at hand.

The number of prank fire alarms in particular has diminished in recent years, Brook said. He said the false alarms have not been persistent enough to be a problem for TFD or the University.

Alicia Browne, associate director for information and communication for Housing and Residential Communities, said prank alarms are rare.

"[It] is rare for one of our fire alarms to actually be pulled as a prank," she said.

"Fire alarms almost always sound because something is actually setting them off. Actual fires are also rare; it is more common that a student walks away from something that is cooking and excess smoke results, or a sensor can go off because of steam."

Matt Simons, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering who lives in Rose Towers, said in August a resident of Rose Towers left a pizza in the oven and forgot to return to check on the food, which resulted in a small kitchen fire.

The cause of the fire was labeled as unintentional in the 2010 Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report, which details the date, time and nature of fire emergencies from 2009 through 2011.

The report records that since February 2009, two instances of unintentionally caused fires have occurred, neither of which qualified as arson. The other 20 instances are described as unintentional with one of them being a mechanical failure in the Kappa Delta sorority house.

BANDS

Continued from page 1

Even Egan's motivations may involve money rather than a desire to promote original music.

"Our crowd is older and come here knowing they're going to listen to music they haven't heard before," said Jeff Sides, bar manager of Egan's. "Our crowd doesn't like covers, and they'll let the artists know with their boos."

That is not the case at Copper Top.

"A lot of the pressure to play covers comes from the crowd," said William Stephenson, guitarist for Plato Jones and booker for Copper Top. "They want to sing to the music — so much that bar [managers] are wanting to say 'I can make just as much money playing an iPod [as I can booking a cover band].'"

Glibella's frustration is widely felt. Local musician Joshua Morgan Folmar said there are not many options for original songwriters outside of "busking"—playing for tips—at local cafés. This can present a dire situation for artists who rely on

playing their own music for their livelihood.

"If it's going to take a bunch of covers to make the money to get my music out there someday — it is what it is," said Michael London, bassist for The Shoplights and Truffle Shuffle.

London, Folmar and Watson all believe it's possible for original artists to find a fan base. But they also believe Tuscaloosa's overall perception of originals does nothing to facilitate things.

"This town has a culture problem, but it's reality wherever you are," Watson said. "People have anything they could ever want entertainment-wise in the palm of their hands."

Watson believes many bands unwilling to play covers stubbornly blame bars for their own inability to draw a crowd.

Some bands, however, insist that drawing the crowd is not the point. The members of Glibella feel the number of gigs they book is unimportant compared to the practice of their craft.

"Cover bands are nice and crowd-pleasing," said Kyle Smith, bassist for Glibella. "But anyone can trace the Mona Lisa, and we wouldn't consider that art."

TIDE

Continued from page 1

at the end of the day the game is decided between the lines. We just have to prepare for the team they are going to put on the floor."

Grant also said that earlier road tests will help the team going into this big road game.

"Our guys have been in some very hostile situations," Grant said. "I think if you look at some of the environments we have been in, like at Purdue, at Providence and even the neutral-site Oklahoma State game because it was very pro-Oklahoma State, you will see that."

"I think Tennessee has one of the highest attendance figures in the league. We expect them to cheer for and support their team. We just have to be focused and locked in on what we have to do between the lines."

On defense, the Tide will look to pressure Tennessee with full court presses and trapping defenses. They will also look to

force turnovers. On offense, the Tide will try to speed up the pace of the game and get a lot of easy baskets in transition.

For Tennessee (14-7, 4-2), the team will be playing their seventh conference game without head coach Bruce Pearl, who was suspended for the team's first eight conference games due to violating NCAA rules.

Tony Jones has been the Volunteers' interim head coach during Pearl's absence. The Volunteers are led by junior guard Scotty Hopson, who averages 16.5 points per game.

"I think they have very good personnel and a very good system," Grant said. "We have to put our players in a position where we can do a good job on the defensive end first and then find a way to have some success offensively."

Following this game with Tennessee, the Tide will travel to Nashville, Tenn., to face Vanderbilt on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 8 p.m. before returning home to host the Mississippi Rebels on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 3 p.m.

Workshop builds leadership skills

By Hailey Grace Allen

The University of Alabama Crossroads Community Center and Sustained Dialogue Network will host a workshop this Saturday addressing leadership across culture. The workshop will be held in the Anderson Room at the Ferguson Center from 1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

The mission of the Sustained Dialogue Network is to get University students to speak up about prominent and controversial issues. This Saturday's

IF YOU GO ...

- **What:** Leadership Across Culture workshop
- **Where:** Ferguson Center Anderson Room
- **When:** Saturday from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

workshop is designed to provide insight into effective intercultural communication with campus leaders.

Students from various cultural

organizations across campus were invited to attend, and Beverly Hawk, director of the Crossroads Community Center, said she expects a good turnout.

"This workshop offers training in strategies for effective intercultural communication," Hawk said. "The knowledge serves as a foundation for leadership in campus organizations and workplace communities, and a preparation for lifelong learning in

intercultural understanding."

Hawk said that the Sustained Dialogue Network not only offers training strategies but also an opportunity to engage in conversation in an atmosphere of respect and community.

"It leaves each participant with a deeper appreciation of individual complexity and a meaningful connection to the members of the dialogue group," Hawk said.

To read the full story, visit cw.ua.edu

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Undefeateds to clash in Gainesville

By Jason Galloway
Sports Editor
crimsonwhitesports@gmail.com

Less than halfway through the season, the Alabama gymnastics team is already preparing itself for the end of it.

A week after scoring a season-high in a championship setting, the undefeated Crimson Tide will take on the team that will likely be its biggest competition at nationals this season, No. 1 Florida.

"I knew they were going to be one of the most talented teams [this season]," said Alabama head coach Sarah Patterson, who voted the Gators No. 1 in her preseason coaches' poll ballot. "I felt like, with the talent they have ... that's going to be our measuring stick. So, to take our young team down there, let's see exactly how close we are."

Last week, Alabama's 196.825 was its highest score of the season by half a point. The Tide performed on a

platform, which is unusual unless the team is competing in the SEC Championship or NCAA Championship. Alabama also competed against three other schools in Fort Worth, Texas last weekend, another similarity to the postseason.

"For our team, that was a perfect experience," Patterson said. "All week, we just used it as a preparation for nationals. We stepped out of our dual-meet setting and everything we did was everything we're going to do for championship season."

Alabama will return to its regular dual-meet setting in Gainesville, Fla., tonight, but the Tide will familiarize itself with the team to beat in the country this season. Not only are the Gators ranked No. 1 in the country, they are ranked No. 1 on three of four events (vault, uneven bars and floor exercise) and third on the balance beam.

Florida, who won the SEC Championship last year, is led by two underclassmen ranked in the top five in the all-around

— Sophomore All-American Ashanée Dickerson is ranked fifth, and freshman Alaina Johnson is fourth.

Johnson has emerged as the best freshman in the country this season by winning the SEC Freshman Gymnast of the Week three times. She also posted a 39.6 in the all-around last week, higher than any Alabama gymnast has scored this season.

"It puts a lot of pressure on the team because [Florida is] No. 1," freshman Sarah DeMeo said. "They're definitely at their peak right now. I wouldn't say the mindset is trying to beat them, but the mindset [is] doing the best that we can. We just want to keep improving and beat our own score every week."

Tonight's meet against the Gators begins at 6 p.m. CST in Gainesville, Fla. Fans and students will be able to follow all the action online at RollTide.com and GymTide.com as well as on the radio at WVUA-FM 90.7.



Freshman Sarah DeMeo performs on the balance beam against Boise State on Jan. 21. A young Alabama team will face off against No. 1 Florida in Gainesville, Fla., tonight.

CW | Teresa Portone

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February 4, 2011
Editor • Jason Galloway
crimsonwhitesports@gmail.com

SPORTS this weekend

FRIDAY

• Men's Track Meyo Invitational: All Day, South Bend, Ind.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Tide optimistic after strong start to season

By Bobby Thompson
Contributing Writer

The Alabama women's tennis team has opened its season strong and is eager to keep the momentum going. The Tide is currently 1-1 for the

spring season after suffering a heartbreaking 4-3 loss to No. 3 Baylor University.

"Playing Baylor was good experience for us," head coach Jenny Mainz said. "We were in all the matches. I feel like we competed well across the

board. The more times we are put in that high-pressure situation, the better our response will be the next time."

The Tide hopes to regain its confidence from the fall season after its loss to Baylor.

"I think the momentum

of our fall season has definitely carried over," Mainz said. "Another huge factor in our success has been our two freshmen. They have stepped up and contributed in a major way."

Sophomore Antonia Foehse

said, "We have got to stay positive in big matches. We have to keep working hard and stick to our game."

Several aspects of Alabama's game are producing results.

"We were up early in our matches, but we did not finish strong," Foehse said. "However, it was a good weekend and I think the team learned a lot."

Mainz shared the same opinion about the Tide's match against Baylor. Mainz also believes the team has made improvements and is capitalizing on key aspects of its game.

"A major goal of ours is to win the doubles point," Mainz said. "So far we have done a good job of achieving that goal. Winning the doubles point feels like a moral victory. It puts us in the match early and gives the team a confidence boost."

This weekend, the Tide will play in New Orleans against Texas Tech University and Tulane University.

Both Texas Tech and Tulane are 2-0. The Tide will have to play well if they hope to win the tournament this weekend.

"This weekend I want to do a better job of playing aggressive," Foehse said. "If I am up 4-0, like I was in my match last week, I don't want to change the way I am playing the game. I want to keep the pressure on and finish strong."

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Keller's story comes to local stage

By Lauren Ferguson
Contributing Writer

Starting on Feb. 4, Theatre Tuscaloosa will present "The Miracle Worker," a play telling the story of Alabama native Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan.

Sullivan was born legally blind, but after nine surgeries, doctors were able to restore part of her vision. After experiencing mental and physical disabilities growing up, she began teaching children with disabilities, such as Helen, who was blind and deaf from infancy.

"It's a great Alabama story," said Jeff Wilson, who plays Captain Keller, Helen's father.

He said he enjoys watching Zoe Jones play Helen Keller.

"The whole play revolves around her and she has no lines," Wilson said. "It's a challenge."

Stacy Panitch, who plays Sullivan, said she has enjoyed learning about the Helen Keller story and its Alabama roots, since she considers herself a "Yankee."

For those like Panitch who may not know much about Keller's story, there will be three free special events to

attend that will give insight into the life and achievements of Helen Keller.

The two preshow events will be Friday Feb. 11 and Saturday Feb. 12, both at 6:30 p.m. in the Alabama Power Recital Hall on the Shelton State Community College campus.

The first event will feature Lauren Wilson, who will be lecturing on the ways Helen Keller created access for people with disabilities. The second event will feature a reading of quotes, letters and poems by Helen Keller, presented by the Theatre Tuscaloosa actors.

The third event will be a post-show poetry reading by Jeanie Thompson of poems about Helen Keller. This event will be held March 1 at 7 p.m.

The play itself will run from Feb. 4 to Feb. 13 at Shelton State Community College's Bean-Brown Theatre.

"It is a play about two extraordinary women," Panitch said. "It is very challenging [to play Annie]. She is going through a huge transition. She has a lot of baggage."

Throughout the play Sullivan is constantly reminded of her past, having seen the horrors of mental hospitals and not

IF YOU GO ...

- **What:** "The Miracle Worker"
- **Where:** Shelton State's Bean-Brown Theatre
- **When:** Feb. 4 to 13
- **Cost:** \$10 for students

wanting Helen to succumb to the same fate. With patience, Sullivan educates Helen and helps her adapt to society.

"The audience will identify with Annie Sullivan trying to get a child to obey, or with a child with learning disabilities," Panitch said.

Panitch received her MFA in acting from the University and is currently a UA employee.

Since the Keller story is a part of Alabama's history and is incorporated into the 4th-grade learning curriculum across the state, local students will be able to attend two matinee showings. These shows will be performed just for the school children in order to offer a better understanding of Keller and



CW | Porfirio Solorzano

Zoe Jones as "Helen Keller" and Stacy Panitch as "Annie Sullivan" in Theatre Tuscaloosa's February 2011 production of "The Miracle Worker" by William Gibson.

Sullivan.

The performances will start at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays. Regular performance tickets will be \$17 for adults,

\$14 for seniors, and \$10 for students and children. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit theatretusc.com or call 391-2277.

LIFESTYLES

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February 4, 2011
Editor • Kelsey Stein
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Burlesque show a sneak peak for season

By Karissa Bursch
Senior Staff Reporter
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Tuscaloosa's own local troupe of feathers, sparkles, costumes, song, dance and comedy is kicking off its fourth season this weekend. The Pink Box Burlesque will perform Saturday Feb. 5 at Little Willie's. Doors open at 7 p.m., the band starts at 7:30 and the show begins at 8. The show costs \$10 and attendees must be 21 and up.

According to Mama Dixie, madam of the Pink Box Burlesque, "This show is a review show—a celebration of previous acts and performances that are classic to the burlesque. You'll see acts from our last three years and teasers for our March 25 show at the Bama Theatre. It's a taste of everything we do and what you can expect from our fourth season shows."

There will be a special guest, Ham Bagby, at the show as well.

Dixie said Bagby is a former guest performer for the group and a local musician and singer from Tuscaloosa.

"Ham Bagby is an amazing musician and singer that's been keeping Tuscaloosa cool for more years than I can count," Dixie said. "He's joined us as a guest musician before, and

IF YOU GO ...

- **What:** Pink Box Burlesque review show
- **Where:** Little Willie's
- **When:** Saturday, Feb. 5; doors open at 7 p.m., music starts at 7:30, show starts at 8
- **Cost:** \$10

we're thrilled that he's stopping back in."

According to Bagby's Facebook page, he has previously performed at other local venues such as Copper Top, Innisfree, Egan's, the Gray Lady, Rounders and more.

He will sing some of the performance songs as well as a couple of his own original tunes, Dixie said.

The Pink Box Burlesque band will begin the night at 7:30 p.m. before Bagby performs at 8.

"The PBB band is going to start us out with jazz, but that's just the beginning," Dixie said. "The show will include everything from sultry singing to Elvis to folk to comical. They got skills."

The Pink Box Burlesque band includes Phat Daddy on bass, Colonel Booker on guitar and The Assassin on drums.

Dixie said the group has grown and changed over the past three seasons and is looking forward to the fourth.

"It's amazing, exciting," Dixie said. "I think the troupe has changed and grown a little each season—from content to performers to the kinds of stories we like to tell. And, of course, along the way we've scored some amazing band members."

This season there will be new performers along with those that "you know and already love," Dixie said.

The season currently includes seven large shows, and Dixie said the troupe is working on adding more.

"The spring semester is usually lighter than the fall, but the shows are big," Dixie said. "We're looking to travel more, too, so who knows what the future holds."

Dixie said University students should come to the show because of the variety that it offers.

"The PBB offers a variety show in the vaudeville style," Dixie said. "With live music, singing, dancing, comedy, serious social commentary and the parts that keep it all together, there's something for everyone. Not to mention [it's at] a bar."

Dixie said last season was very successful and she looks

forward to a similar season this spring.

"We all worked very hard last season and it paid off," Dixie said. "We had a lot to celebrate when all was said and done. As a founding member of

the troupe, I always have hopes for the upcoming season. We are the sum of our parts and the performers that I've come to love as a family always surprise me with the fantastic things they create."

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COLUMN | VIDEO GAMES

Sackboy's newest adventure in Craftworld is a LittleBigSuccess

By Tiara Dees



"LittleBigPlanet 2" is not a platform game. It is not a shooter, racer, rhythm or puzzle game. This game is all of the above and more and is simply not bound by any one genre.

Media Molecule first released "LittleBigPlanet" in 2008 as a PlayStation 3 exclusive, and LBP2 is the continuation to this series.

Story

In LBP2, you play as "Sackboy"

or "Sackgirl" in an epic adventure to save Craftworld from an evil vacuum cleaner creature known as the Negitvitron.

A strange fellow named "Larry Da Vinci" convinces you to join the Alliance in order to stop the Negitvitron from stealing everything in Craftworld. You travel from world to world, saving Craftworld's inhabitants from being sucked into Negitvitron's giant vacuum.

The story mode in LBP2 is wonderfully exciting compared to the old mode in the first LBP. You typically start each new world with a well-made cutscene that includes incredible cinematic control and voice acting.

Gameplay

The basic gameplay of LBP has not changed much since the first game. Without the use of tools, your sack person can run, jump, collect items and grab objects.

If you are looking for a new experience, LittleBigPlanet 2 includes all of the same tools and items from the first game, as well as some new gadgets that really change how the game is played.

The player now has the ability to instantly create new objects using an item called the "creator," which was first introduced as a pastry-creating machine called the "cakeinator."

However, one downside to the gameplay in LBP2 is that the physics of the game have not changed much, so your sack person's jumps are still going to be as "floaty" as in the first game.

Game Creation

Game creation in the first LittleBigPlanet was a time-consuming process. Spending hours creating a level in LBP is not unheard of and some players would spend weeks to perfect their level's story, logic and design.

With added features and tools in LBP2, level creation is easier



LittleBigPlanet 2, developed by Media Molecule, was released on Jan. 18.

littlebigplanet.com

to grasp but will probably still prove to be extremely time-consuming. Here are some of the new features that make creation mode more interesting:

In the first LBP, players could create animated creatures or enemies in levels. However, the functionality of creature creation was very limited, as the artificial intelligence in the game only allowed a few simple actions for the creature to initiate at a time.

LittleBigPlanet 2 changes this by adding "sackbots," or robots that look like Sackboy. The level creator has the option to manually "program" their sackbots to follow your character, run away or just ignore you.

Community

One new change to the community is the complete overhaul on the search system. You can

choose between four different options to help you find a particular kind of level or game, instead of searching through all levels at once.

You can also search for a particular keyword in the search box for levels, or you can filter levels by genre, popularity or type. As stated earlier, all of the original LittleBigPlanet games are available to play, and new LBP2 games are being created every day.

LIFESTYLES in brief

Folk duo to play at Oz Music store

By Kelsey Stein

The Civil Wars will perform in-store at Oz Music Saturday at 1 p.m., along with indie folk artist Lucy Schwartz. The event is free and open to all ages.

The Civil Wars, made up of Joy Williams and Alabamian John Paul White, released their debut album, "Barton Hollow," Tuesday.

Their song "Poison & Wine"

was featured on an episode of "Grey's Anatomy," and they appeared on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno on Jan. 13.

Lucy Schwartz will open for The Civil Wars at a Saturday night performance at WorkPlay in Birmingham, as well as a Sunday matinee show.

Jason Patton, the store manager at Oz Music, said he thought getting the band to play in-store was a long shot that happened to work out. The Civil Wars are coming to Tuscaloosa solely to play at the store.

"It's a pretty big deal, and it shows to me that they're good people who are meeting the demand of fans, even with the national exposure they've gotten," Patton said.

Oz Music will have CD and LP copies of the album for sale, which the band will sign after the performance.

Patton said he is expecting a large crowd, and he encourages people to arrive early.

For more information about The Civil Wars, go to their website, thecivilwars.com or visit their Facebook or MySpace page.



ozmusiconline.com

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Legal

PUBLIC NOTICE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) The NOAA proposes to establish an Integrated Water Resources Science and Services (IWRSS) National Water Center on the University of Alabama campus. NOAA prepared a DEA document available for review and comment beginning February 2, 2011, at the Gayle Gorgas Library. A copy can be obtained from: Ms. Emma Rawnsley URS Corporation 100 W. San Fernando St, Ste 200 San Jose, CA 95113 emma_rawnsley@urscorp.com

Written public comment on the content of the DEA will be considered if postmarked or emailed by March 5.

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The Green Hornet (PG-13)
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ACROSS

1 Tic

5 Travis of country

10 Arrange in a tournament

14 Eliza's greeting

15 2009 Man Booker International Prize Winner Alice

16 Poi base

17 Favorable time to place an online bid?

19 "Almighty": 2007 film

20 Sacred scroll

21 Silent

23 Wellness gp.

24 de toilette

26 Nobelist Bohr

27 Online networking site trainee?

31 What odes do 1987 Crosby role

35 Hope-Crosby destination

36 Pay for periodic use

37 Coll. of 12 signs

38 Afghanistan's Tora region

39 2007 honor for Hugh Laurie: Abbr.

40 "Ben Adham"

42 Warned, in a way

44 Detective's job concerning a personal online relationship?

47 Bottom bits

48 Word before or after pack

49 27-Down, e.g.

52 Colorful fish

55 Kirin beer rival

57 Starting stake

58 Spinner seen in an online video?

60 Bakery buys

61 Seaside flock

62 Bit of Marx's legacy

63 It may number in the thousands

64 Ones changing locks

65 Agile

DOWN

1 Effectiveness

2 "Tuesdays With Morrie" author

3 Light smoke

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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