

The Crimson White



Let us vote on
Sunday alcohol sales
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Theatre department stages
'Blithe Spirit' for the third time
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awards on A-Day
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Monday, April 23, 2007

Serving the University of Alabama since 1894

Vol. 113, Issue 119

A *record* breaker



CW/ T.G. Paschal

ABOVE: More than 92,138 fans pack Bryant-Denny Stadium for the A-Day game, which marks the end of spring football practices.
RIGHT: Jimmy Johns, (10), carries the ball for the winning white team during the game.

A-Day game draws more than 92,000 fans to Bryant-Denny

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

The annual A-Day football game is the culmination of the 15-practice spring workouts for the Alabama Football team. But this year for the Crimson Tide, it meant a lot more.

More than 92,138 fans turned Tuscaloosa and the UA campus atmosphere into that of a fall SEC home game. The game was so well attended that officials had to close the gates during the second quarter because the stadium was already at capacity.

The actual football work on the field took a backseat to the outpouring of fan support, as fans officially welcomed new head coach Nick Saban to

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Streetscape to change Bryant

By KATIE BARZLER
Staff Reporter
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The front door of Lewis Mouron's two-story home sits only about 10 yards away from the narrow road he lives on. His green lawn is tiny but just wide enough to have a modest white picket fence to separate his front steps from the bustling traffic of Paul W. Bryant Drive.

Mouron, a senior majoring in accounting, lives on the south side of Bryant Drive, past Rama Jama's and JD's and between 16th and 17th avenues — about a block away from Queen City Avenue. This is one of narrowest stretches of Bryant Drive and one of the prime locations to be affected by the Bryant Drive Streetscape, a project undertaken by the city of Tuscaloosa to widen Bryant Drive as well as beautify the road with heavy landscaping, new sidewalks and decorative traffic lights and lamp posts.

"There are some streets in Tuscaloosa that the city could definitely improve," Mouron said. "I just don't think Bryant Drive, at least this area, should be their focus, especially since the houses are already so close to the road as it is."

Mouron's bedroom window faces the street, and being so close to the road, he hears every car and motorcycle zoom past during the night. He said widening the road toward his home might make it even louder.

"We have such little space already, and you don't want your front yard to be a street," Mouron said. "Especially a crowded street."

Joe Robinson, a city engineer, said the Bryant Drive Streetscape will come in two parts. One will be the widening of Bryant Drive to three lanes between Hackberry Lane and Queen City Avenue. This, Robinson said, will alleviate traffic on gamedays, which is especially problematic for that section of Bryant Drive.

The second portion of the project will focus on Bryant

Bryant Drive Streetscape to come in two parts:

- Phase One: Bryant Drive will be widened to three lanes between Hackberry Lane and Queen City Avenue.
- Phase Two: Bryant Drive will be narrowed from four lanes to two between Queen City Avenue and North Lurleen Wallace Boulevard.

Drive between Queen City Avenue and North Lurleen Wallace Boulevard, where the street will be narrowed from four lanes to two lanes. Landscaping, drainage work, sidewalk construction and new street light and lamp post installation will accompany both phases of the project, Robinson said.

"Bryant Drive serves as a gateway to the University, and I think the heavy landscaping and new traffic signals and street lighting will complement the street as a gateway into UA," Robinson said.

The city is working on getting permission to widen the stretch of road where Mouron lives. Several students and homeowners along Bryant Drive could be affected by the construction, which is set to start in August and wrap in winter of 2008.

Laura Sellmansberger, a senior majoring in marketing, lives two houses down from Mouron — only a couple of buildings away from the busy Queen City Avenue intersection. She will move out in May when she graduates and won't be affected by the construction over the summer.

Sellmansberger said she and her roommates park behind her two-story home in a small lot, so parking has never been a problem. Expanding the road even closer to her house will likely leave less room for

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UA students walk for cancer cure



CW/ Alex Gilbert

Relay For Life participants honored cancer survivors on the Quad Friday.

Students, cancer survivors gathered Friday night for Relay for Life fundraiser

By JACOB SUMMERS
Staff Reporter

Many students were jailed Friday night, with bail set at \$1, without being read their rights or even being handcuffed.

To make matters worse, the jail was old and flimsy and had no roof. They were jailed on charges of helping raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

More than 40 teams of students from organizations around campus gathered Friday night to raise money to fight cancer.

Relay for Life, sponsored by the ACS and run by a group of students on campus, was held

on the Quad from Friday at 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. Saturday.

"I'm really excited about it," said Lisa Messina, a senior majoring in American studies and ceremonies chairwoman for the ACS. "We're rallying together to raise funds; it's fun and it really counts."

Messina said the goal for the rally was \$44,000 and said more than half of the funds were raised by the beginning of the night's activities.

Students began raising funds weeks ago by asking for donations from sponsors in Tuscaloosa and by registering people to represent their teams at the main event, she said.

"There are fundraisers going on at every tent," Messina said. "And all the money goes to the ACS."

Messina said she was

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Earth Day 2007



CW/ Andrea Mabry

Twins Cecily and Gwendolen Webber, 8, play with bubbles at EarthFest Extravaganza 2007. Three student organizations sponsored the day.

IN CAMPUS brief

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presentation on Alzheimer's today

Andrea Cevasco, UA assistant professor of music therapy, will present "Music Therapy and Dementia: Impact of Therapist's Nonverbal Behavior on Affect and Participation of Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease" today at noon in 111 AIME Building. Her lecture is sponsored by the UA Center for Mental Health and Aging. For more information, contact the center at 348-7518.

Office of Student Media now hiring

The Office of Student Media has immediate opportunities in customer service and marketing. Students applying for customer service positions should be able to work interim and summer class sessions. Customer service representatives work an average of 10 to 15 hours per week. Marketing applicants must be at least a junior, and have experience in 300-level and above writing and design courses. Applications are available at the Office of Student Media, behind Reese Phifer Hall, and must be submitted by Wednesday.

De-Stress Fest this week

The annual UA De-Stress Fest will be held Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Quad as part of Stress Management Month. Students, faculty and staff members can come to the Quad for massages, yoga, lunch, TCBY treats, inflatable games like the obstacle course and boxing ring, wax hands, a mechanical bull, live music, art therapy and many events designed to promote relaxation and well being at the end of the semester.

For more information contact Sherrelle Hudson at 348-4930, shudson@sa.ua.edu.

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a calm south wind.

Tuesday Partly cloudy.
81°/62°

Wednesday Partly cloudy.
80°/60°

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We know what we have to do to get us in a position to win in the games next year. It is going to be a good summer."

— **Defensive lineman Wallace Gilberry, after Saturday's A-Day game that saw record-breaking attendance numbers.**
See "A record breaker," Page 1.

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Officials: surveys affect campus

Bama Dining and graduation senior survey among eight surveys sent

By MEGHAN MENARD
Senior Staff Reporter
menard@cw.ua.edu

Eight different surveys from the University were sent to students' BamaMail accounts since March 2006, Michael George, university registrar, said in an e-mail.

The institutional surveys and research-based surveys are mass e-mailed to students through the Office of Academic Records and University Registrar, he said.

"The University uses surveys to assess student attitudes toward the University and University-provided services so that it may be change resilient and adjust to the changing needs of the University community," he said.

Paul Milam, a junior majoring in accounting, said he thinks the surveys lead only to

■ Surveys sent to UA students include: DiningStyles from Bama Dining, Office of Institutional Research & Assessment Exit Survey, University Recreation Annual Survey Continuing Students Research Based [Institutional Review Board IRB Approved], Survey of Student Credit Use and Personal Financial Management Survey, Urban Legend Survey, Institute for Social Science Research Survey and University of Alabama Advertising Team Survey.

■ 1,123 students completed DiningStyles survey, a Bama Dining official said.

■ About 25 percent of senior class completes Graduating Senior survey each year, officials said.

some change at the University because many students do not respond to the e-mails.

Greta Davis, manager for Bama Dining, said in an e-mail that 1,123 students completed the DiningStyles survey, which is sent to all students each semester.

"This type of feedback leads to the changes you see around campus, such as the expanded menu and options now available at Burke Dining,"

she said.

A DiningStyles survey has been sent to students since 2004, she said, and she said the feedback has always been positive.

"We have not yet received the results from the most recent survey," she said.

She said Bama Dining compares the scores of the different dining locations to determine what the students, faculty and staff like about certain

locations so that it can be applied to the other facilities.

"We are always doing research and conducting surveys to better understand our customers' needs and preferences and implementing changes in response to those needs," she said.

Jon Acker, coordinator for assessment, said about 25 percent of the graduating class responds to the graduating senior survey that has been sent each graduating term since 2002.

"[The survey] is part of our effort to find out what we're doing right and what we're doing wrong," he said.

He said in an e-mail the survey asks questions about students' academics, University facilities, on-campus services and faculty issues such as advising.

It also asks students about the UA environment, the overall education, life outside of the classroom and plans after graduation, he said.

"It was devised to help us

See SURVEY, Page 3

A-DAY

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Bryant-Denny Stadium.

"First of all, I'd like to send thanks to the fans and supporters who made this a really special day," Saban said in the post-game press conference. "To have however many people as we had today, I thought that brought a lot of self-gratification for the efforts the players have given in the last month."

It was a display of passion, Saban said, that made him feel good about being at the Capstone.

"I hope that we can continue to channel the energy in a positive way to get where we want to go and continue to build this program into something special that represents the state of Alabama and the University of Alabama in a positive way," he said. "I know that it inspired our players. It was positive for them to have the experience that they had today in playing in front of a great crowd."

The crowd at Bryant-Denny Stadium broke Tennessee's hold on the SEC spring game record,

Will Bickelhaup



"We're going to need to expand our stadium

again. A-Day brought a whole lot of new fans," said Bickelhaup, a freshman majoring in advertising.

Caroline Ball



"It was a great representation of the University because

we had so much going on, but it might have been nicer to split up the triathlon and A-Day," said Ball, a sophomore majoring in math.

Geoff Crane



"It was impressive that we set a record for a

team that we really don't know yet and don't know how good they're going to be," said Crane, a junior majoring in finance.

which was estimated at 73,000 fans, according to UA officials. The Tide's 92,138 in attendance nearly doubled this season's previous best set by Florida at 47,500.

"I thought the atmosphere was awesome," junior quarterback John Parker Wilson said. "We all expected a lot, but we definitely didn't expect all of this. The fan support was awesome. Over the course of the game we looked up and saw everybody. We didn't expect that many people or to see that type of support."

As far as the actual game went, the white team topped the crimson team, 20-13.

"I think we did good today," Wilson said. "Offensively, we took care of the ball. We handled

it without turning it over. We were able to score some points offensively. It was a good day. I thought today was definitely one of our

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CANCER

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pleasantly surprised by how many organizations showed up.

"It's been a great time — so many awesome people are out here, just to rally around a good cause and have a great time," she said.

In addition to raising money for the ACS through normal fundraising methods, many teams found a unique way to raise money and represent their organization, Messina said.

Academic sorority Sigma Alpha Iota dressed up in '80s clothing to lure people in to donate money.

Another team, fraternity Sigma Lambda Gamma, constructed a false jail, and students who wanted a brief reprieve from their teammates or wanted to pull a joke on their friends could donate \$1 to put them in jail. The catch to getting out of jail was that the donation had to be matched.

Andy Cherolis was able to use this approach to raise more than \$20 for cancer just by being trapped in the jail for about an hour.

"It felt good — I hadn't really raised any money up to this point," said Cherolis, a freshman majoring in music education. "That was actually my

big brother in my fraternity who put me in there. It's devotion, all devotion."

The fraternity was paid \$10 to put Cherolis in jail, and each time he would get close to leaving the jail, random strangers would walk by and pay to keep him in.

"[My big brother] got me in there, and he didn't think it would last that long," Cherolis said.

Other tents had hunting themes, bake sales and raffles, which included a basketball signed by Alabama Basketball head coach Mark Gottfried.

Kendall Maddox, a junior majoring in mathematics, said as a cancer patient, it meant something to see so many students out on the Quad walking for a cure.

"Something like this means a lot to me because of the cancer," Maddox said.

Maddox said he was diagnosed with testicular cancer on Nov. 22. He said he has now been through chemotherapy, gone into remission and will have surgery April 30.

"I want to come out to things like this so we can get more survivors," Maddox said. "My type of cancer has one of the highest survival rates. The mortality rate is only like 30 percent, and I want to make sure other people who really need the help can get it. It really means something to see that other people care."

BRYANT

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visitors who park on the grass, she said.

What is a problem, though, is the traffic during game days. After the A-Day game on Saturday, she said football fans

trying to leave town drove on both sides of the road in front of her home toward Queen City Avenue.

Sellmansberger said on game days, it is hard to drive anywhere.

"If it will help with the traffic, there is a need for an expansion," she said.

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CW/ T.G. Paschal

Senior wide receiver Keith Brown runs the ball past three Tide defenders.

SURVEY

Continued from Page 2

get a comprehensive understanding of student perceptions of their entire educational experience at UA," he said in an e-mail.

He said he was not sure what improvements to the University are made based on the surveys, but said he sends reports of the information to the president, the provost, the vice president for student affairs, the assistant vice president for undergraduate programs and services, the dean of libraries, the dean of the graduate school and the dean of continuing studies.

He also said he sends college reports to the deans of every college except the law school.

"These reports are placed online for all to see," he said.

"Nothing is censored, so you can see all of the glowing numbers and comments, and those that are not so glowing and the nasty comments."

Many UA colleges send the information from the graduating senior survey to national accrediting agencies, he said.

"The data is often invaluable and the key to maintaining one's accreditation," Acker said.

The University completed the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmation a few years ago, he said, which called for an online documentation of the assessment processes for academic and administrative divisions.

"Information from the graduating senior survey finds its way into many of these academic profiles," he said.

Based on the results from the graduating senior survey, he said he prepares reports for academic programs going through the full review process, or when the program does not have an external accreditation agency.

The graduating senior sur-

vey is also used for national surveys that give information about the University, Acker said.

The other institutional surveys sent to students were the University Recreation annual survey and the continuing students survey, George said.

He said the Institutional Review Board approves research-based surveys that are sent to students.

Nita Hestevold, a research associate, said the Institute for Social Science Research sends e-mails throughout the year recruiting students to complete surveys.

"The information from the surveys is used for journal articles and further research of the topic," she said.

George said the purpose of the ISSR surveys is to assess student attitude toward health-related issues and

behaviors and that in the past, \$15 has been offered to students who participate.

Jennifer Kit, a senior majoring in public relations, said her advertising team sent a survey to University students and people all over the country.

"We were doing our advertising project on Coca-Cola and we were targeting 13-24 year olds," she said.

She said the advertising team participated in the National Advertising Student Competition and received more than 5,000 responses to the survey.

George said the other research surveys were the Urban Legend, the Student Credit Use and Personal Financial Management surveys.

Kasey Oswald, a junior majoring in social work, said

A-DAY

Continued from Page 2

better days. We didn't have any interceptions and hardly any fumbles."

The white team was made up of the first-team offense and the second-team defense, which squared off against the crimson team, which consisted of the second-team offense and the first-team defense.

"When we decided to play the best against the best and the twos against the twos, we wanted to put our team in the most competitive situation they could be in," Saban said.

"The purpose of this game was to help our team improve for the fall. We felt that the thing that was going to enhance our chances to improve the best was to put them into the toughest competitive situation for each individual player."

Saban said he was pleased with the game itself.

"The discipline and execution was appropriate," he said. "We dropped some balls, the tackling was pretty good for

the most part and we didn't make a lot of mental errors. The game was pretty simple, relative to the things that we did on the running plays, passing plays and defensive pressure that we had."

The crimson team got on the board in the second quarter with a 5-yard touchdown pass from freshman quarterback Greg McElroy to junior wide receiver Matt Caddell.

The white squad countered on their next drive. Wilson hit junior receiver D.J. Hall with a 17-yard pass for a touchdown.

Christensen added a 42-yard field goal for the crimson team just before the half, to give them a 10-7 lead.

Christensen added a 41-yard field goal on the crimson squad's opening drive in the second half.

On the white team's next possession, they countered with a drive that concluded with a 26-yard touchdown pass from Wilson to Nikita Stover.

Freshman kicker Leigh Tiffin added a pair of field goals — a 46-yarder and a 28-yarder — to push the white team to a 20-13 victory.

"It was definitely a fun day," defensive lineman Wallace Gilberry said.

"The fans were great. It was really like a game atmosphere. Both sides of the ball played hard. Each group, both first and second time offense and defense, got a lot done today.

"We know what we have to do to get us in a position to win in the games next year. It is going to be a good summer."

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Our View

OK Sunday liquor sales

Earlier this month, the Tourism and Travel Committee in the Alabama House of Representatives voted to allow localities to make their own decisions about Sunday alcohol sales. The bill must now pass both houses of the Legislature as well as be signed by Gov. Bob Riley.

In Tuscaloosa, the bill has the full support of the City Council and Mayor Walt Maddox.

"I'm simply asking the state to respect the right of the people to vote," Maddox said in an article that appeared in Friday's edition of *The Crimson White* about the issue.

We agree with the mayor and the council. This is something people in our state should be able to vote on for themselves.

Though we are realistic in thinking this bill might never see the light of day after making it out of committee, we're hoping this will pass through the Legislature so each county or city can vote.

As for the issue of Sunday alcohol sales itself, a majority of the editorial board hopes the people of Tuscaloosa will vote to allow Sunday alcohol sales in our area.

We don't see any major disadvantages to allowing Sunday alcohol sales. The main argument against the sale of alcohol on Sunday is a religious one, and we respect that. People argue Sunday is a holy day and therefore it's disrespectful to drink. However, regulating the economy based on that philosophy makes the lines between church and state a little too blurry for a majority of us.

The consumption of alcohol is a personal choice. If you don't want to drink on Sunday, then don't. If you don't want to drink at all, don't drink at all. If alcohol is legal every other day, then why is it not on Sunday?

Plus, there are clear advantages to allowing Sunday alcohol sales. It would bring more revenue to our area and could potentially positively affect tourism. These economic benefits alone are worth allowing.

But actually getting people out to vote is still a long way off. As we mentioned, the entire Legislature and Riley have to approve of localities holding votes.

We think this is an even simpler issue. Voting is one of our country's basic rights, and people should be able to make more choices like these on their own. If the city does get to vote on the issue, we also encourage UA students to make sure they're registered and vote, since it certainly will affect us.

Let us vote.

Our View is the consensus of The CW editorial board.

Letter to the Editor

Don't ignore the facts

This letter is in response to the letter to the editor in Friday's *Crimson White* by Bonnie Stith.

People like her have a problem with the words abortion and genocide being put in the same sentence, and I wonder why.

If that word is too much, perhaps mass murder suits your liking better. If you want to play the English dictionary game in this life and death argument, that's fine, but there is still an abundance of suitable words to fit the description of abortion.

I'd also like to ask Stith a few questions. She claims that "sensational images" align the pro-life movement with Nazism. Oh, if only I had a nickel every time I've heard the age-old "Well, that's like the Nazis!" argument.

How is it that truthful pictures depicting actual events and results are "propaganda" and "sensational images?" The pictures displayed on the Quad last week are not scientifically in dispute.

These images are real. I fail to see how that falls under the category of "sensational" or "twisted scientific facts."

Abortion advocates continue to rationalize killing as a choice, yet similarly look to countries like Darfur and become enraged with the genocide. In fact, Stith claimed comparing abortion and Darfur was "insensitive, unintelligent and unnecessary." What about the approximately 3,700 children killed every day by abortion?

People like Stith have no problem decrying the 3,500 to 9,000 killed each month in Darfur (which is a terrible tragedy), but similarly see nothing wrong with turning a blind eye to the more than 110,000 killed every month in America through abortion.

These facts are not in dispute. Ignoring these facts and the mass murder that takes place in this country is what I call insensitive, unintelligent and unnecessary. It's amazing people think it's a constitutional right to kill.

Just because you are passionate about a topic doesn't mean you're right. If Stith wants to display some real compassion, then she could continue defending life of those living, like those in Darfur, and similarly protect those without a voice. That would take some real guts.

Nic Hoch
Junior, telecommunication and film

A failure in communication

Is Robert Witt a liar?

The answer to that question might have come two and a half years ago, in a situation the school's president would like forgotten, which at the least showed how far his administration was willing to go to protect the school's image.

What is for sure, no matter what was said, is that this is a story of failure for the student press and the campus community that should not be forgotten.

In September 2004, the University president gifted the UA Faculty Senate a speech hitting nearly every loaded topic dealing with the school's future. He said he was concerned Hurricane Ivan's devastating blows to the Alabama coast could deny the school precious state funds, but sure that recruiting out-of-state students, who pay more in tuition, could ease its funding woes.

Out-of-state recruiting was also the key to Witt's biggest goal: expanding enrollment to a 28,000-strong student body rich with academic talent within the next decade.

And one syllable on that subject, questioned since it was first breathlessly reported by *The Crimson White*, has conjured wariness and hell ever since it left Witt's mouth.

What *The CW* reported: Alabama schools were not "churning out the quality" of students the school wanted.

Administrators quickly told the paper that Witt had said "quantity," not "quality," because of Alabama's stagnant graduation rate. That is, realistically, the state does not have



Damage Control

Nicholas Beadle

beadle@cw.ua.edu

enough college-ready students to pack the Capstone.

There were promises of a recording, or a transcript, or notes, or something contrary to the report. After talking to *CW* staffers from the time, it is murky how top editors were sure a correction was needed, other than Witt's recollection.

What matters is that he got a front-page correction and apology, though no firm recording — on tape or on paper — of his remarks really surfaced.

And what matters even more is *The Tuscaloosa News* caught the same quote — it just didn't end up in that paper's story on the loaded speech.

In a column that week, Douglas Ray, the paper's executive editor, said its reporter had a similar quote in its notes. The *CW* reporter's attribution of the "churning" phrase was likely off, Ray concluded, but the sentiment was exactly the same.

"Much of the anticipated growth in Alabama will happen in high schools with students unlikely to be the quality of students we want," Witt said, according to notes referenced

by Ray.

When I asked Witt about Ray's column a month ago, he bristled.

"To the best of my knowledge, *The Tuscaloosa News* never did misquote me. The only paper that did misquote me was *The CW*," Witt said. "They apologized for their mistake. I see no use for going back over that ground."

"Other people did not hear me make the statement *The CW* attributed to me."

Mathew Winston did, or at least the word "quality." An associate English professor, Winston would go on to become Faculty Senate president.

"It was a slip of the tongue," Winston said. "I am 100 percent convinced that he meant to say quantity. I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind."

Winston said no one had asked what he heard until I called him last month.

And in the two and a half years since, others have recalled to me that they heard Witt say essentially the same thing in speeches before and after that meeting.

When asked about that, Witt asserted that: "That's not an accurate statement of what they [people I had spoken with] said."

So is Robert Witt a liar? Perhaps, but that's not exactly the point of this story.

If you believe the evidence, this story shows this University administration is so obsessed with maintaining its image that it immediately moved to intimidate its students into believing its definition of the truth.

This school's student body is growing — in numbers and submissiveness. With the transition to a monster campus getting tougher, and the administration amounting a track record of letting concerns bounce off the ivory and bend the truth, problems are only going to get worse if no one is willing to be smart enough to question authority.

The paper did one story on the topic after Witt's column, pointing out the lack of context in the e-mail that alerted students of the apology. That story was buried below the fold, and *The CW* limped on.

"It was time for us to move on in our journalistic lives," Lauren Davidson, that year's editor, said. "It just wasn't that important of a story."

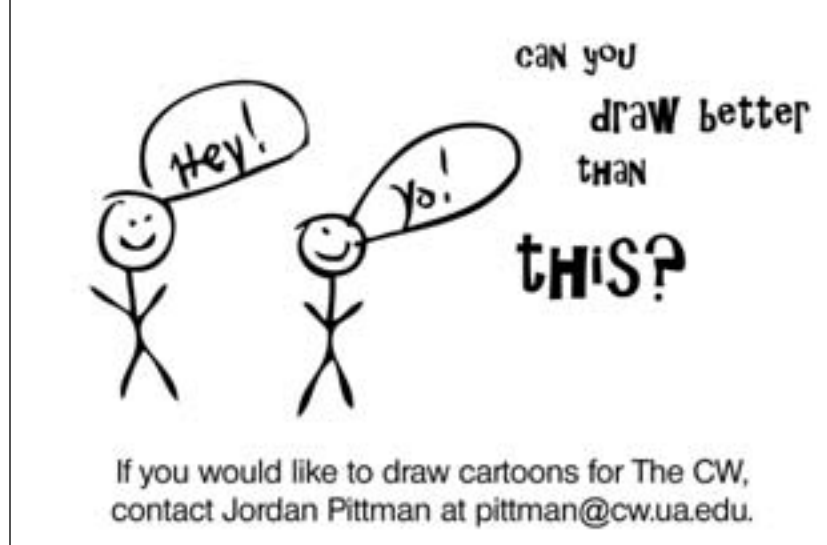
And Winston defended why no faculty leader was brave enough to stand and up say what he had heard. He said that misspoken statement — something many of those who know the state education system would likely agree with — could have driven legislators to cut higher education funding.

So is Robert Witt a liar? Is his memory bad? Is he just certain he did not say quality on that day?

Why don't you ask him? This is about taking responsibility for the truth.

Somebody here ought to do that.

Nicholas Beadle is a senior reporter for The Crimson White and editor of the Corolla yearbook. His final column will run next Monday.



CW/ Zach Summers

One hour in the life of Jake and Steve

A lot of people ask us what we do in our normal everyday lives when we aren't being cool and awesome and... even more... cool. Well, we will now give you a glimpse into the lives of Jake Bennett Esq. and Stephen Q. Cummings M.D.

Previously on "Read This Column" (cue typewriting noise and cool flashy effects):

"What's that, girl? Steve's trapped in an underground well, being held hostage by mutant Nazis with flaming swords? Oh... you pooped in front of the door..."

"Jake, grab some pliers and hold my war medals, it's gonna be bumpy ride..."

"Add five cups of walnuts, a teaspoon of lemon juice and powdered beaver's tail... it's gonna be a bumpy ride..."

The following takes place between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.:

4:00 p.m. — Jake calls Steve because they forgot they had an article due at 5 p.m. that day.

4:04 p.m. — Steve rolls out of his Dale Earnhart #3 racecar bed from a seven-month slumber and makes waffles.



Read This Column

Jake & Steve

4:07 p.m. — Waffles are done, but they are badly burned. Steve throws them away and adds a mark to his "Ways to stick it to third world countries" list.

4:11 p.m. — While waiting on Steve, Jake swallows a live duck whole.

4:12 p.m. — Steve lands on Jake's apartment building in his helicopter made entirely of dinosaur bones.

4:15 p.m. — Jake and Steve look for enlightenment by flipping through the television, but only find Sylvester Stallone's "Demolition Man" on TBS.

4:19 p.m. — They decide instead to watch Jake's TiVo'd "Free Credit Report.com"

commercial 17 times and sit in awe at its sheer awesomeness.

4:27 p.m. — Jake and Steve engage in a 30-second beard-growing contest. It's judged by a celebrity panel comprised of such great beards as George Lucas, Grizzly Adams, Chewbacca and Cliff from Cheers. Former United States Attorney General Janet Reno just plays to be the equalizer.

4:39 p.m. — After much deliberation, the panel decides that Jake wins, not because of his extra 4 inches of length, but because of its bushiness and the fact that it can change colors.

4:41 p.m. — Jake and Steve discuss how America's wasteful attitude could in fact be its demise and how it may be contributing to global warming. They agree to disagree and then decide to enjoy their newly purchased diesel powered zeppelins.

4:35 p.m. — Steve apparently sleep-debated... again.

4:45 p.m. — Jake crashes his zeppelin into Mount Rushmore.

4:50 p.m. — Steve stops

laughing and checks to make sure Jake is alive.

4:57 p.m. — After running in a dead sprint back to Tuscaloosa, Jake and Steve write their article and e-mail it to Jordan Pittman.

4:59 p.m. — The boys sit and relax while enjoying mai tais with the little umbrellas in them and watching Fran Drescher's "Beautician and the Beast." All of the sudden, the Jake and Steve signal comes on and they tear off their shirts and run out to save yet another damsel.

(Tick, tick, tick, tick, tick...)

So, as you can see, we pretty much live the lives of normal Americans... if normal Americans can grow 30-second beards and save the world numerous times. To you, that stuff sounds impossible. To Jake, Steve and Jack Bauer it's a little game called life.

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

INbrief

from wire reports ...

Experts discuss how to manage kids' TV viewing when a tragic news event is unfolding

NEW YORK — Any time his 6-year-old son or 5-year-old daughter walks in on Jon Klein watching CNN, he quickly changes the channel. The CNN U.S. president knows better than most the conflicting agendas of news organizations and parents during tragic, disturbing stories. Seung-Hui Cho's massacre of 32 people at Virginia Tech last week was a particularly vivid example.

Experts say, to not risk emotional damage, it's important to shield youngsters from prolonged exposure to news coverage of events like these.

The Virginia Tech story had two flash points. The first was on the day of the event, as the magnitude and sheer horror of the shootings unfolded on television. Just as the shock was receding, news organizations carried fearsome pictures and video of the killer he sent to NBC News on the day of his rampage.

"If you let your kids watch stuff like this, you're committing child abuse," said Mark McGuire, a pop culture columnist for the Albany Times Union.

Blue Angel pilot who died in crash described as fascinated with flying since he was little

BOSTON — Even as a young boy, Navy Blue Angels Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Davis was intrigued by speed.

"He was fascinated with airplanes from the time he was little," former neighbor Betty Sweeney said. "He knew what he wanted to do, and he did it. That's the only relief, that he went doing what he wanted to do."

The 32-year-old Navy lieutenant commander was killed Saturday when the F/A-18 Hornet jet he piloted as a member of the Blue Angels team crashed during an air show in a residential area of Beaufort, S.C.

'Disturbia' takes in \$13.5 million to repeat as top weekend flick

LOS ANGELES — The face of Hannibal Lecter was no match for Shia LaBeouf in a box-office battle of murder thrillers.

DreamWorks and Paramount's "Disturbia," starring LaBeouf as a teen who suspects a neighbor of murder, took in \$13.5 million to hold the top weekend movie spot for a second straight weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

New Line Cinema's "Fracture" starring Anthony Hopkins — who played serial killer Lecter in three films — debuted at No. 2 with \$11.2 million. Hopkins plays a sly defendant accused of killing his unfaithful wife, with Ryan Gosling co-starring as the prosecutor.

DreamWorks and Paramount's figure-skating comedy "Blades of Glory," starring Will Ferrell and Jon Heder, was No. 3 with \$7.8 million in its fourth weekend to cross the \$100 million mark.

Sony Screen Gems' horror flick "Vacancy," starring Kate Beckinsale and Luke Wilson as a couple marked for grisly death at a sleazy motel, led a rush of other new wide releases, opening at No. 4 with \$7.6 million.

'Blithe Spirit' hits Gallaway again

Comedic tale of mediums and spirits back at UA

By SUZANNE ROBERTSON
Entertainment Reporter

The year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Gallaway Theatre concludes with the production of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" — a play not foreign to the Gallaway stage.

The UA department of theatre and dance performed the play in 1961 and 1996.

"We enjoyed the idea of revisiting shows that we and our audiences have enjoyed over these years," said Thomas Adkins, program director for the theatre management. "[It] is important to us, as we commemorate this building's rich history, to remember those shows that contributed to the fabric of our success."

Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" tells the story of novelist Charles Condomine, who invites a medium to his country house to tutor him in the occult, Adkins said.

But, Adkins said audiences will have to come and enjoy the show before they find out just what sort of ghostly and ghastly events unfold. "[The play] is a light-hearted comedy written by a master of language and wit," said Seth Panitch, director of the acting pedagogy program, who also stars as Condomine.

Directed by Edward Williams, "Blithe Spirit" will have surprises that crop up throughout the play.

"The show is alive with very cool special effects," Adkins said. "Many mysterious and ghostly things will happen throughout the performance."

The preparation for the show has been somewhat different than other shows, Panitch said.

"We have all actors, designers, costume [designers] and scenic constructors had to



work in a shortened rehearsal schedule, and everyone has had to move at double speed," Panitch said.

But that hasn't affected the quality of the performance, he said.

"It has actually brought everyone closer together in the feeling that all of us are contributing together to the audience's enjoyment of this story," Panitch said.

Panitch, who is also an assistant professor in the theatre department, said he couldn't express more excitement about working with his students in "Blithe Spirit."

"As a professor, it is always a rare treat to work with actors you are training," Panitch said. "[You] see so much growth in them in the classroom and when you direct them, but actually interacting with them onstage allows you to glimpse their development in a much different light."

Adkins and Panitch said they want a successful run at Gallaway as well as a good response from the Tuscaloosa and UA communities.

"I hope that people fall in love with this show and then of course stay in love with UA theatre and dance," Adkins said. "[The] magic that you see on stage only happens because of the experience that happens between the

show and the audience."

Panitch's said he wants the play to give the audience a relaxing, pleasing diversion because, "comedy, at its best, aims to divert us from the worries of the world outside the theater."

Adkins said he hopes people will appreciate the work that has gone into presenting the show.

"I hope and believe that any first timers to our productions will be wowed by the level of professionalism and craftsmanship that has gone into 'Blithe Spirit,'" Adkins said.

There is an amazing amount of work that goes into making the production run smoothly, Adkins said.

"Collectively, there are over 50 people who are making 'Blithe Spirit' happen, most of whom the audience will never see during the production," Adkins said.

The excitement surrounding putting on a production hasn't left Adkins over the years, he said.

"It's an amazing process and one that wows me every time," he said. "[The] magic of theater never gets old, and the fascination never fades away."

The UA department of theatre and dance's production of "Blithe Spirit" is Tuesday through Sunday at the Marian Gallaway Theatre with nightly showings at 7:30 and a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets are available at the box office in Rowand-Johnson Hall. Student and children's tickets are \$8, seniors and UA faculty and staff tickets are \$10 and adult tickets are \$12.

If you go ...

What: 'Blithe Spirit'

When: Tuesday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.

Where: Marion Gallaway Theatre

Cost: \$8 for students; \$10 for faculty, staff and seniors; \$12 for adults



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MOVIE REVIEW

'Vacancy' is horror done right

By PHIL OWEN
Assistant Entertainment Editor
owen@cwua.edu

In the last few years, I've had to seriously lower my standards when it came to horror films. Not that the percentage of bad horror films has risen, but it's simply hard to find any joy in the types of bad horror films most often released.

We've been flooded with goreless PG-13 crap that only has the scare factor going for it, and most of them can't deliver on that. In the past, at least the majority of bad horror consisted of R-rated slasher films that, at the very least, could entertain by being awesomely violent.

As a result of that shift, I rarely find myself in the theater seeing horror films, though the genre as a whole is one of my favorites. It takes either a strong marketing campaign or an R-rating to get me out, and this weekend's "Vacancy" had both. And for once, I didn't regret spending my time and money on a horror film.

The film is about a couple, David and Amy Fox (Luke Wilson and Kate Beckinsale), who are reaching the outer limits of their relationship. They're making some sort of road trip; they're lost and their car, predictably, breaks down, with only a garage and a motel within walking distance.

After a strangely creepy conversation with the strangely creepy innkeeper (Frank Whaley), they decide to stay there for the night in the honeymoon suite. The room very quickly is revealed to be more like a campground bathroom than they would have preferred, but they decide to tough it out.

After only a few moments, the proverbial s--- hits the fan. Someone begins loudly banging on the door, but when David opens the door he finds no one there. After several minutes of this, David tells the



Luke Wilson and Kate Beckinsale star as David and Amy Fox in the movie 'Vacancy,' which opened Friday.

innkeeper about it and goes back to the room to try to relax.

To help him with that, he turns on the TV, and after finding that none of the channels work, he decides to try one of the VHS tapes lying on top of the television. That was a bad choice, as the tape holds a snuff film showing two masked men murdering people in the very room the Foxes sit in. It's made clear those masked men will try their hardest to do the same to them.

What makes this film work is the almost unbearable tension that takes over as soon as the first knock upon that hotel room door is heard. Director Nimrod Antal, behind the camera for only his second feature film, proves more than capable of introducing that tension and then maintaining it for almost the entirety of the remaining running time.

But Beckinsale and Wilson also need to be credited for really selling their roles. In the opening scenes, we meet a cranky couple, those folks who are constantly angry at each

other over the dumbest things.

At the same time, though, we can easily see why they loved each other in the first place. We can see that even now, after they have decided to get divorced, they care about each other.

And because of that, we really do care about whether they live or die, and hope to high heaven they survive the night. It's to Antal's credit that he can not only create a truly frightening scenario and some excellent scares but can also manage to make someone like me pull for these characters to make it instead of hoping for their grisly demises as I usually do.

That makes it all the more disappointing that the tension loses a large portion of its weight at the end.

However, "Vacancy" is the rare horror film that delivers the scares and tells a decent story. And that's all I ask.

Rating:



Rottentomatoes.com

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Rebecca Bates
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■ **SOFTBALL**

Alabama sweeps Rebels

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The No. 2 Crimson Tide softball team earned a series sweep on the road at Ole Miss in Oxford, Miss., on Sunday with a victory over the Rebels at the Ole Miss Softball Complex.

Alabama stole five bases in the win to give them 19 in three games on the weekend.

Chrissy Owens was successful on the mound again Sunday for Alabama as she pitched her second shutout of the weekend and 11th of the season.

She pitched a complete seven-inning game with only three hits allowed, four walks and seven strikeouts.

With the win, she improved to 22-2 on the season.

Much like they did in Saturday's doubleheader, Alabama players used their speed to put pressure on the Rebels and provide pitchers with run support.

After recording 14 stolen bases and 27 hits in the two wins yesterday, the Tide put the pressure on again with six runs on 11 hits.

In the third inning they got things going with three hits, a walk and four stolen bases for three runs.

With one out, Ashley Holcombe started things

with a single to center field.

Mallory Benak came in to pinch run and stole second base for her 16th stolen base of the year.

Kelley Montalvo moved the runner to third with a single to center.

A double steal gave both Benak and Montalvo a stolen base as Benak took home for the first run of the game and Montalvo second. An infield single by Brittany Rogers and a walk by Jordan Praytor loaded the bases.

Charlotte Morgan then hit a single to the gap in right center to score two runs and put Alabama in front 3-0. Holcombe came through again in the fourth inning.

After Kellie Eubanks led off the inning with a single to left field, Holcombe drove the ball just past the Alabama flag in left field for a two-run home run.

It was the fifth home run of the season for the sophomore catcher, who has already passed her freshman total of three.

Montalvo scored again in the sixth inning. She hit a double to the corner in left field with one out and came

around to score on a single



Chrissy Owens

up the middle by Rogers.

The Tide loaded the bases with no outs but was unable to bring any runs home.

With a full count, Burford lined one to the right field corner to the wall, but it landed just

outside the foul line and she ended up with a fielder's choice groundout. Dani Woods and Eubanks followed with two ground outs.

Holcombe led the way at the plate going 2-for-3 with a run and two RBIs.

Montalvo finished 2-for-3 with two runs scored while Parker also added two hits. Rogers was 2-for-4 with a run and one RBI while Morgan also knocked in two runs in the game. Ole Miss scattered three hits, and Mary Jane Callahan drew two walks to lead the way offensively for Ole Miss.

The Tide will have its final homestand next week at the Alabama Softball Complex with a game against non-conference Troy on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Alabama will welcome SEC foe Kentucky for a three-game series over the weekend with the five seniors to be honored with senior weekend.

■ **ROWING**

Rowing earns bronze medal

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Alabama Rowing team competed in three finals on the last day of the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships including a second place finish in the "B" final of the First Varsity 8.

"We rowed some good races today," Crimson Tide head coach Larry Davis said. "It was a little bit hot out there today, but the conditions were generally good. We were faster today, making some key adjustments. There was some very good competition here this weekend, from across the country and I think as a first year program we stacked up fairly well."

The First Varsity 8 battled Tulsa for the top spot in the "B" final, finishing just six-tenths behind the Golden Hurricanes, 7:03.3 to 7:03.9. The Tide avenged an earlier loss to SMU by half a boat length and increased their winning margin over previous opponent Murray State. The Tide also beat Jacksonville and West Virginia.

"Our first Varsity 8 rowed much better today than yesterday," Davis said. "We made some adjustments and made a five-second drop in our time over the same course."

Alabama finished sixth in the grand final of the First Novice 8 race. Kansas State took first with a 7:07.3. The Tide battled fifth-place Louisville down the stretch finishing just two-tenths back of the Cardinals, 7:21.1 to 7:21.3.

"It was a very competitive final," Davis said. "We made a run at Louisville and just ran out of race course there at the end."

Alabama finished seventh in the finals of the Second Varsity 8 race with a 7:20.2. Central Florida won the final with a 6:53.0.

"We rowed a very good 1,500-meters, but unfortunately for us, this was a 2,000-meter race," Davis said. "We didn't finish well, which is unusual for this crew."

Alabama medaled in one division and earned finals in two others in its first day.

"We rowed well, though not as well as we could have," Davis said of Saturday's events. "You have to be right on the numbers at this level of competition. The weather was good and the conditions were a touch slow, but not bad."

The Crimson Tide took the bronze medal in the finals of the Second Novice 8 race.

Central Florida took top honors with a 7:36.2 followed by Purdue at 7:46.3.

Alabama took third with a 7:54.3. Tennessee was fourth with an 8:15.1 with Louisville in fifth at 8:17.0.



Larry Davis

Georgia rounded out the final with an 8:30.6.

In the preliminaries of the First Novice 8, Alabama was third in its heat with a time of 7:22.1 grabbing a spot in Sunday's Grand Final.

Kansas State placed first with a 7:04.3 and Louisville was second at 7:17.1.

Alabama, Kansas State and Louisville will be joined in the finals by Central Florida, Purdue and California State-Sacramento, the top three boats from the other preliminary heat.

In the Tide's preliminary heat of the First Varsity 8 race, Alabama finished fourth, earning a spot in Sunday's "B" final with a 7:08.3. California State-Sacramento was first at 6:55.2.

There was a fight for second, with Purdue edging Kansas State 7:00.4 to 7:00.7.

Alabama returns home next week for its second competition on the Black Warrior River against the Miami Hurricanes.

The race will be at 8 a.m. Saturday.

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INbrief

from staff and wire reports ...

Tide women earn four SEC Academic honors

The Crimson Tide women's basketball team was recognized for its recent academic prowess, as four of the five players eligible for SEC academic awards earned recognition on the league's academic honor roll.

The four honorees on the squad include sophomore Camilla Blands and three outgoing seniors, Leah Drury, Kate Mastin and Navonda Moore.

First-year players are not eligible for the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

"I think it should be well-documented that we were fortunate to have inherited such quality student-athletes from Rick Moody and his staff when we arrived here at Alabama," head coach Stephany Smith said.

"Of those three seniors, all graduated ahead of time and were working on post-graduate degrees last year, so you have to give a lot of credit to Erin Mishoe, our academic adviser and the staff at Bryant Hall, as well as Lisa Wilson who is the academic liaison on our staff."

Overall, 28 Alabama athletes were among the 341 student-athletes included on the SEC Winter Honor Roll.

The four honorees for the women's basketball team equaled last year's mark, giving the program 65 honorees since the inception of the award in 1985.

Nick Watney wins PGA's Zurich Classic

Nick Watney won the Zurich Classic for his first PGA Tour title, closing with a 3-under 69 on Sunday for a three-stroke victory over Ken Duke.

Watney, the 25-year-old Californian in his third year on the tour, had a 15-under 273 total at the TPC Louisiana.

Duke, who also was seeking his first tour victory, shot a 70.

Watney, fifth in two tournaments last year, lost the lead when he missed a 3-foot par putt on the par-4 10th.

He bounced back with a birdie on the par-5 11th and went in front for good with a birdie on the par-3 14th.

On the 14th, Duke's tee shot landed short and left of the green, his chip went 7 feet past the pin and he missed the par putt coming back to fall two shots behind.

Watney parred the final four holes, missing the fairway only once off the tee and hitting every green in regulation.

His celebration was subdued as he held aloft both arms and hugged his caddie before clapping above his head in appreciation of the crowd.

Watney had never before teed off with the lead in the final round of a PGA Tour event, and he didn't keep it for long.

He bogeyed Nos. 3 and 4, but then Watney holed the shot of the tournament — a 132-yard approach shot for an eagle on the par-4 fifth — to pull back into a tie for the lead.

Watney became the fifth first-time winner in the last six years at New Orleans' annual PGA Tour event.

The course, its fairways flooded because of drain clogging debris that included 2,000 fallen trees, was closed for 10 months for \$2 million in repairs to 30 acres of damaged turf.

New Orleans seems to be kind to players who've never won, regardless of the course, in part because some the tours top players often skip it.

SOCCER ■ ALABAMA 1, SOUTH ALABAMA 1

Tide ties South Alabama in spring finale

By CHRISTOPHER MCKAY
Contributing Writer

The Crimson Tide soccer team capped off the spring half of the 2007 season unbeaten with a 1-1 tie Sunday in Fairhope against the South Alabama Jaguars.

The two teams met as part of the Lower Alabama Classic, which features college soccer teams from around the state.

The Tide and Jaguars battled through a scoreless first half.

The Jaguars pulled ahead early in the second but could not hold off the Tide's offensive attack.

Junior Kailey Corken scored the equalizing goal on a header late in the second half to preserve the tie for the Tide.

"Jamie Zimmerman had an awesome cross — [South Alabama] was trying to pull an offside defensive trap," Corken said. "I just got in behind the defender at the right moment and stuck my head on it and it went in."

The goal was Corken's third in her last two games for Alabama. The Tide's record now rests at 3-0-3 heading into the summer break.

The consistency of the stingy defense and the newly found chemistry and confidence of the offense have head coach Don Staley excited about his team's potential for the fall.

"There is so much more continuity to this group," Staley said. "It's just a whole

different atmosphere right now."

The coach handed out grades for his team that would satisfy even the most scrupulous critic.

"First, the defense would get an A," Staley said. "Offensively, I would probably give them an A-."

The Tide has been rejuvenated by the return of several players who had been suffering from injuries for much of last season. Staley credits the return of those players as well as new assistant coach Nikki Smith for the "clean play" his team has demonstrated this spring.

With the completion of the spring season, Tide players will have more than three months off before their next match.

When the team reassembles in August, returning members will be joined by 22 newcomers from across the continent.

The Tide boasts one of the top recruiting classes in the nation, and the position battles at fall practice are sure to be intense.

"We're going to have a lot more depth and we're going to have a great deal of new talent coming in," Staley said. "The challenge we will have in front of us is picking the right 22 to travel and picking the right 11 to start out playing."

The Tide will resume action when it visits Robert Morris University Aug. 31 in Pittsburgh.



CW/ T.G. Paschal

Junior defender Natalie Kohn fights a Birmingham-Southern player for position during a game at the Alabama Soccer Complex in September. Alabama wrapped up the spring season with a 1-1 tie against South Alabama.

■ MEN'S TENNIS

No. 16 Crimson Tide falls to Gators at SECs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The No. 16 Alabama men's tennis team faced a tough opponent in Florida Friday at the WT 'Dub' Robinson Tennis Center in Baton Rouge, La.

The match came down to the final singles match, with the Crimson Tide falling 4-3 to the Gators.

"We knew going into the match the doubles point would be critical," Alabama head coach Billy Pate said. "We just didn't get it done there, and that was the difference. It was disappointing because we've been good in doubles all year."

Alabama had a tough time against Florida in doubles. The Tide had a good showing on court two, but Nos. 1 and 3 could not hold off the Gators.

Florida's top tandem of Jesse Levine and Greg Ouellette defeated the Tide's Dan Buikema and Mathieu Thibaudeau, 8-2, while Alabama's Javier Bes and Billy Mertz fell to Nestor Briceno and Geoffrey Barton, 8-6, to give Florida the doubles point.

Alabama's No. 2 tandem of Saketh Myneni and Joseph Jung led Florida's Jordan Dolberg and Billy Mulligan, 7-6, before their match was suspended.

"We played exceptionally well in singles and mounted a good charge to put us in position," Pate said. "Florida is so good in the top three, and we had to take one of those. Unfortunately, we were just short."

Alabama's Thibaudeau turned in a commanding performance against Florida's Mulligan, taking his opponent in straight sets, 6-1, 6-1, to tie the match.

The Tide's Myneni took the second match to give Alabama a 2-1 lead.

Myneni defeated Florida's Barton, 6-2, 6-3, from the No. 6 slot.

Florida earned wins at Nos. 1 and 2 to gain a 3-2 lead against the Tide.

The Tide's Mertz fell to Florida's top singles player, No. 3 Levine, 6-4, 6-4, at the No. 1 slot, while Jung lost to Ouellette, 6-3, 6-4, at the No. 2 slot.

Bes responded with a win at the No. 5 spot, tying the match at 3-3 with a two-set win over Dolberg. Florida's Briceno clinched the match for the Gators with a 6-4, 6-5 win over Alabama's Sammy Struyf from the No. 2 position.

"We have to work hard the next three weeks in preparation for the NCAAs," Pate said.

Alabama finished the season 20-7, earning its first 20-win season since 1987.

ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

Athletics Schedule

April 23-April 29

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SOFTBALL vs. Troy 6:30pm	BASEBALL vs. Samford 6:30pm	BASEBALL vs. S. Carolina 6:30pm	BASEBALL vs. Kentucky 1:00pm (DH) BASEBALL 4:00pm	SOFTBALL vs. Kentucky 1:00pm (DH) BASEBALL 4:00pm	SOFTBALL 1:30pm BASEBALL 2:00pm

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Saban, staff name Tide spring award winners

By RYAN WRIGHT
Senior Sports Reporter
wright@cw.ua.edu

The Alabama football team put in some work over the spring. More than 92,000 people can attest to that.

But a few players were recognized for their efforts during the spring, and they picked up some hardware as they walked off the field on the mother of all A-Days.

The annual spring training awards were doled out at the 50-yard line Saturday moments after the white team handled its business.

Freshman Brian Motley and sophomore Mike Johnson earned the Bart Star most improved player award.

Head coach Nick Saban called third-string offensive lineman turned starting defensive lineman Motley "the surprise of the spring."

"[Motley] showed some explosive quickness in the off-season program," Saban said. "We didn't have enough defensive linemen to get through spring practice, so we decided to move the guy, and he becomes a starter and one of our most productive guys."

Tailback Terry Grant and defensive back Kareem Jackson earned Ozzie Newsome most improved freshman honors. Grant turned in A-Day's best rushing performance with 47 yards on eight carries.

"He's got explosive quickness, natural instincts as a runner and he's a good receiver," Saban said. "We're still looking

for a tandem at that position."

Senior Simeon Castille and junior Antoine Caldwell, the anchors of the defense and offense respectively, have taken ownership of their demanding roles. The two were awarded the Mal Moore leadership award.

Senior D.J. Hall received the Ray Perkins receiver award. Hall made his case a tough one to refute.

Showing up and showing out with an A-Day MVP performance, Hall looked like the 1,000-yard receiver of last season.

Two players sustained injuries Saturday, neither of which was serious.

Sophomore tailback Glenn Coffee and junior tight end Charles Hoke both suffered mild shoulder injuries.

"They're not bad as we see it right now," Saban said. "We'll get a better report later, but I don't think it's anything serious."

Before the scrimmage, 2006 team captains LeRon McClain and Juwan Simpson made their mark among the greats. Solidifying their spots in Alabama Football history, the two imprinted the base of Denny Chimes with their hand and footprints.

Bypassing an admission charge, the University teamed with the United Way of West Alabama to raise relief money for victims of the tornado that hit Enterprise in March.

With 38 donation stations near the gates of Bryant-Denny, workers collected

approximately \$38,000 by half time.

Determined by the coaching staff, 10 other spring training awards were announced Saturday.

Zeke Knight earned the Lee Roy Jordan headhunter award. Jimmy Johns received the Jerry Duncan "I like to practice" award. Prince Hall received the Woodrow Lowe linebacker award.

John Parker Wilson earned the Johnny Musso offensive back award.

Darren Mustin, a senior working in reps at the linebacker position, received the Paul "Bear" Bryant outstanding non-scholarship player award.

Keith Saunders earned the Billy Neighbors defensive lineman award, and Andre Smith received the Paul Crane offensive lineman award.



Junior quarterback John Parker Wilson looks to pass the football during Saturday's A-Day game at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

CW/T.G. Paschal

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