

# The Crimson White



Where is Mike Jones?

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Friday, May 5, 2006 Serving the University of Alabama since 1894 Vol. 112, Issue 127

SEPT. 30, 2005

## Katrina slams into Gulf Coast, T-town

The Gates on 12th avenue sustained extensive damage when Hurricane Katrina hit Tuscaloosa. The damage to the apartments caused many of the residents to move to other apartment complexes.



CW/ T.G. Paschal

Houses damaged, UA takes in evacuees

By MARLIN CADDELL, STEPHEN DAWKINS, LORI GREEL AND MIKE FAULK  
The Crimson White

Students on and off campus woke on Aug. 30 to find trees snapped in half, downed power lines and electrical outages across Tuscaloosa — damage left by the remnants of Hurricane Katrina, which

passed through on Aug. 29.

Though Tuscaloosa fared better than southern areas of the state, damage and power outages could be found throughout the city.

Most of the campus was without power that night, including most residence halls.

Fraternities on Jefferson Avenue, the Stallings Center, the University Town Center on the Strip, all sorority houses on Colonial Drive, apartments on Ninth Street, Crimson Towers,

Stoneleigh Apartments and the Four Points Sheraton also lost power during the storm.

Power was restored in most dorms by mid-morning on Aug. 30.

Windows were blown out at Julia Tutwiler Hall, and there were reports of a sinkhole that developed near the drainage ditches in its parking lot.

Several trees were also downed on University Boulevard near Colonial Drive. Power lines fell on the Strip

and Hackberry Lane. During the morning hours Tuesday, University Boulevard was closed between Colonial Drive and Devotie Drive.

"We understand that everyone will have to be patient," UA spokeswoman Janet Griffith said, mentioning that some students might still be without power or have trouble navigating campus roads. "We thought it would be best to go ahead

See HURRICANE, Page 10

FEB. 16, 2006

## SGA pres talks of Machine

Carroll says she was member of secret group designed to influence campus politics

By MIKE FAULK  
Student Life Editor  
faulk@cw.ua.edu

SGA President Mary Margaret Carroll said she was once a member of the secretive campus group known as the Machine at a meeting of the UA Student and Campus Life Committee on Feb. 15.

The statement marks the first time in at least 10 years anyone has publicly acknowledged membership in the group, much less a high-ranking SGA official. Machine members and candidates backed by it usually deny the existence of the group or say they have no knowledge of it.

"I used to be in the Machine," said Carroll during a discussion over whether to implement a proposed SGA political party system. "I'm seeing this from a large array of perspectives."

In an interview that night, Carroll said many students have a mistaken image of the select campus political coalition of traditionally white fraternities and sororities and its purpose. She said it is not the "monster" it has been portrayed to be.

"I was a part of a group that worked for the candidate they chose to support," said Carroll, referring to campaigns in previous years before she ran for SGA president. "I want to make it very clear that all it is, is people working for their friends."

Carroll said she has not had any role in the Machine since the 2004 SGA election.

At the final debate of the 2005 election season, The Crimson White quoted Carroll saying the Machine hadn't existed since the 1920s, but in the interview, Carroll denied making that assertion. "I wouldn't have said that because that's not true," she said.

Carroll said she chose not to mention her involvement in the Machine during her campaign last year because she didn't think it was relevant to the SGA. She said the group has nothing to hide and that "humbleness" has been mistaken for secrecy and corruption.

See MACHINE, Page 2



Mary Margaret Carroll

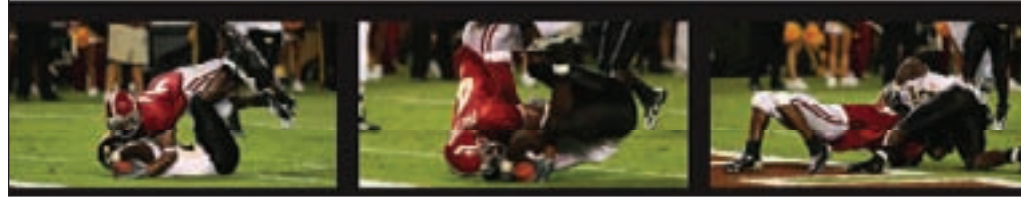
SEPT. 30, 2005

For more of the year in sports, see Page 15.

## Catch of the year



CW/ T.G. Paschal



Tyrone Prothro's acrobatic 42-yard fourth down catch over the back of Southern Miss cornerback Jasper Faulk turned the tide in Alabama's 30-21 comeback victory over the Golden Eagles on Sept. 10. The play came to serve as a symbol of the Crimson Tide's return

to national prominence in 2005 and was later immortalized on canvas by artist Daniel Moore.

The catch was also named by Pontiac as the Game Changing Performance of the Year, earning a \$100,000 donation to the UA general scholarship fund.

VARIOUS DATES

## Frat president, geology professor among '05-'06 deaths

At least five students and three profs died during academic year

By MIKE FAULK, STEPHEN DAWKINS, TRACEY MITCHELL AND KRISTIE BUSAM  
The Crimson White

The UA community saw the deaths of a number of students and faculty during the 2005-2006 school year. Each were known for their unique personal qualities and abilities, and those close to them said they would not soon be

forgotten.

Paramedics found Marshall Meredith, a UA junior and former Kappa Alpha member, dead Sept. 10 at the University Downs apartment complex on 15th Street, according to Tuscaloosa police.

Lt. Loyd Baker of the Tuscaloosa Police Metro Homicide unit said paramedics responded to a call Saturday that Meredith was unresponsive at 120 E. 15th Street, which is the Downs.

Cameron Creel, a Kappa Alpha member who said he helped carry the casket at Meredith's funeral

this week, said Meredith lived at the Downs, but had spent the previous night at a friend's apartment, also at the Downs, where his body was found.

The paramedics took Meredith to DCH Regional Medical Center, where attempts to revive him were unsuccessful, Baker said.

Creel said he and Meredith were part of a tight-knit group of friends from Dothan who grew up together, and that he lived with Meredith last fall.

"There's no doubt in my mind that totting my friend in that

casket was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Creel said.

UA student James Andrew Wren, 18, died Oct. 29 after he lost control of his car, according to The Daily Tribune News of Cartersville, Ga.

Wren, who was from Cartersville, was in his first semester at the University. Wren was planning on majoring in psychology, said Charlie Dennis, a UA freshman who knew Wren

See OBITS, Page 6

FEB. 27, MARCH 13, '06



CW/ Chris Otts

Tuscaloosa Police Chief Ken Swindle talks with an investigator at the site of a shooting at the Venue 1215.

## Men indicted in two Strip shootings

All victims survive shootings

By MARLIN CADDELL, KRISTEN TROTTER AND CHRIS OTTS  
The Crimson White

There were two shootings within three weeks on the Strip this semester, sparking increased security at the popular night spot. Two men have been indicted in the separate incidents.

Jason Michael Gardner, 23, has been indicted for attempted murder in connection with a shooting near the Quick Grill stand on Feb. 26.

Lukendrick Keyon Harton, 21, has been indicted with attempted murder, first-degree assault and two counts of second-degree assault in the March 11 shooting outside the Venue 1215.

Tuscaloosa Police Chief Ken Swindle said

See SHOOTINGS, Page 2

# CAMPUS IN brief

## NEWS FROM THE YEAR

### Secretary of State, British dignitary visit UA Oct. 24, 2005

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw visited the University on Oct. 21, speaking to more than 1,000 people at the Bryant Conference Center.

Rice was in Tuscaloosa as part of a whirlwind trip between Tuscaloosa and Birmingham with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to show him "the real United States." Part of that trip included a speech in Tuscaloosa as part of the Blackburn Institute's annual Frank A. Nix Lecture.

At the presentation, Rice compared the rights obtained by black people in the South during the civil rights movement to the rights coming to the people of Iraq.

She said "impatient patriots" such as Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. demanded their rights from a country where the founding fathers' vision of "'We the People' didn't mean me."

As Straw approached the podium, he made the connection between his home district of Blackburn and the Blackburn Institute. He said the South produced the cotton that fed industry in his home community during the Civil War.

While Rice was giving her speech inside the Bryant Conference Center, some 20 protesters were outside, heckling Rice for her connection to the Bush administration on the Iraq war.

They began awkwardly on a "One, two, three, four. We don't want your stupid war!" chant before hitting their stride on "Hell no, we won't go, we won't die for Texaco!"

Some high school students made their own signs to counter protesters' cardboard messages including signs that said "I Love Bush" to "We may not be Asian, but we love Rice."

### IE department to be cut April 12, 2006

Despite student protests, plans to eliminate the University's industrial engineering department were all but finalized last week after UA Executive Vice President Judy Bonner and President Robert Witt approved a proposal that would phase out the program in the next five years.

Bonner sent an e-mail to industrial engineering students on Tuesday alerting them to the administration's approval of engineering Dean Chuck Karr's plan to dissolve the department and reassign its faculty and resources to other areas of the college.

"The students' degrees will be from an ABET-accredited engineering program and will reflect the strength of the College of Engineering and the University of Alabama," Bonner said.

ABET stands for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, which is the recognized U.S. accrediting organization for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering and technology.

In an April 17 letter, Witt asked UA System Chancellor Malcolm Porter to approve the phase out of the IE department.

"This action will strengthen the College of Engineering by eliminating a relatively low enrollment department and allowing resources to be reallocated to strengthen other programs," Witt said in the letter.

### The Crimson White is ...

- Chris Otts - editor, otts@cw.ua.edu, 348-8049
- Nick Beadle - managing editor, news, beadle@cw.ua.edu
- Tiff Schwarz - managing editor, design, schwarz@cw.ua.edu
- Rachel Cherry - deputy managing editor, design, cherry@cw.ua.edu
- Will Nevin - opinions editor, nevin@cw.ua.edu
- Elliot Knight - photo editor, knight@cw.ua.edu
- T.G. Paschal - deputy photo editor, paschal@cw.ua.edu
- Joan Garrett - training and recruitment director, garrett@cw.ua.edu
- Joey Dodson - graphics editor, dodson@cw.ua.edu
- Mike Faulk - student life editor, faulk@cw.ua.edu
- Ben Flanagan - entertainment editor, flanagan@cw.ua.edu
- Marlin Caddell - metro/state editor, caddell@cw.ua.edu
- Stephen Dawkins - administrative affairs editor, dawkins@cw.ua.edu
- Matt Scalici - sports editor, scalici@cw.ua.edu
- Jessie Patterson - deputy sports editor, patterson@cw.ua.edu
- Lindsay Maples - chief copy editor, maples@cw.ua.edu
- Elizabeth de Shazo - advertising manager, 348-8044
- A.J. Johnson - creative services manager, 348-8995
- Benae Aultman - account executive, 348-6875
- Cassie Edwards - account executive, 348-8735
- Haley Moore - account executive, 348-8056
- Joseph Morgan - account executive, 348-2670
- Whitney Gullet - national accounts, 348-8995

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## SHOOTINGS

Continued from Page 1

Harton is thought to have tried to enter the Venue early March 11 but was denied because he did not meet the Venue's dress code.

The suspect left and returned, shooting four victims with a 9-mm pistol, Swindle said.

Harton, originally from Fayette, is thought to have fled the scene and was picked up by some friends a few blocks down University Boulevard.

Harton is suspected of shooting UA students Erin Pinkerton, a freshman majoring in telecommunication and film, and David Lee, 23, along with Nikita Griffen, 20, and Venue 1215 bouncer Matthew Burgett.

Gardner, 23, of St. Clair County, is thought to have fired into an occupied vehicle in the Feb. 26 Quick Grill shooting.

Tuscaloosa resident Nabil Chagri, 27, was released from DCH Regional Medical Center after being shot in the head and back with a .22-caliber rifle while sitting in his blue Toyota Previa with his wife and two young children. Chagri's wife and children were not injured in the shooting.

Lt. Loyd Baker, commander of the Tuscaloosa County Metro Homicide Unit, said the shooting could be a case of mistaken identity because Chagri is of Middle Eastern descent along with the owner of the Quick Grill, Jassim Madan, with whom he had an earlier altercation.

Gardner is thought to have caused problems earlier in

the night at businesses on the Strip, Baker said.

Madan said he was working at the grill when a customer came up to him and told him a Strip patron was urinating in the back parking lot near the benches where Quick Grill customers sit. Madan said he told the man dressed in camouflage, thought to be Gardner, to leave.

Employees of the Venue 1215 helped get rid of him, Madan said. But he vowed to come back to cause more trouble, Tyra said.

Gardner was belligerent and wanted to fight someone, Madan said. He directed racial slurs at Quick Grill employees, Madan said.

About 20 minutes later, he came back and fired shots from a .22-caliber rifle into the minivan, Tyra said. Customers often sit in their vehicles waiting or eating their food, Madan said.

### Shootings bring more security to the Strip

As many as six police officers patrol the Strip area on any given night normally, but sometimes there are less because they respond to calls in other areas, a result of TPD being 22 officers short, Swindle said.

As a response to the recent incidents, extra police were assigned to the Strip.

The extra police, two supervisors and six officers, are only a temporary solution until the police department, the mayor, Strip business owners and the University can work out a long-term plan, Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox said.

The extra officers will be primarily on foot and will not answer calls in other areas. They will be working overtime, and the mayor said he has requested funding from the City Council to pay for the extra officers. Previous patrols were a mixture of foot, car and bicycle, Swindle said.

Maddox said he has a three-part plan to bolster security on the Strip, including adding surveillance cameras to the area, having the bars hire an off-duty police officer and possibly changing zoning laws so that no more bars can come to the area.

The city plans to put three or four surveillance cameras on the Strip within six months to make the area safer, Maddox said.

The cameras, which Maddox said could cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000, will be connected to the police substation near the Strip.

The cameras will act as a deterrent to crime the same way they do in convenience stores, Maddox said.

A change in zoning of the Strip area would attempt to create more space between bars by prohibiting more bars from opening, though current bars would be allowed to continue operation, Maddox said.

Limiting bars on the Strip is a long-term solution, he stressed. It could take 10 or 15 years for the effects of zoning changes to be seen, he said. The city is looking into whether such a plan is legally feasible, he said.

UA Police Department Chief Steve Tucker said Swindle had discussed reactivating UAPD "fringe patrols" around the

Strip, in which UAPD officers drive by areas close to the Strip. Tucker would not say how many officers had been assigned to the fringe patrols.

But UAPD will use "existing manpower to create greater visibility" in areas near the Strip, he said.

UAPD officers rarely respond to incidents there because the Strip is under TPD jurisdiction, Tucker said. But, UAPD is in a mutual aid agreement with Tuscaloosa and Northport police to help if needed.

Venue 1215 owner Joel Holliday said the Strip Merchants Association plans to hire two off-duty police officers to specifically patrol the Strip on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights when student traffic is the highest.

On April 26, Phillip Weaver, president of the merchants' association, said the group is still contemplating whether it can hire additional officers.

"We're still working on it right now to see how much money we can raise and how much money the merchants can afford to fill in the gaps," Weaver said.

Swindle said assaults in the Strip area had decreased from 56 in 2004 to 38 in 2005. Those assaults occurred in the area between the junction of Riverside Drive and Queen City Avenue to the intersection of 15th Street and Wallace Wade Drive.

With a shortage of manpower, officers frequently respond to calls from other areas, leaving fewer in the Strip area, Swindle said.

"The busiest time on the Strip is also the busiest time in the rest of the town," he said.

## MACHINE

Continued from Page 1

Carroll said the secret fraternal society Theta Nu Epsilon does exist at the University but said the Machine is not a part of it. She said she was not a member of Theta Nu and declined further comment on the organization.

Historically, however, Theta Nu Epsilon has been regarded as the Machine's official name.

The organization was founded at the University in 1888, a quarter of a century before a student government was even formed at the Capstone. CW editors dubbed Theta Nu as "the Machine" in the 1920s because of its efficiency at getting its candidates into office.

Carroll asserted, however, that she did not like calling the coalition the Machine, instead referring to it as "a group of friends."

Carroll said the Machine was not responsible for vandalizing her opponent Zac Riddle's campaign signs during the 2005 election, as some had asserted.

She said intimidation of opposing candidates is not a practice of the organization.

"I would never be associated with something that's threatening," Carroll said.

She also denied any knowledge of whether accusations of Machine intimidation against non-Machine candidates in the past were true. "I don't know what happened before I got to school here," Carroll said.

Carroll said she wants students to know that there is no "supernatural force" that controls SGA elections or student government.

She said the Machine doesn't choose who will run for office and that its only purpose is to provide a base of support for SGA candidates that have befriended its members. She

said it was only "networking."

"The greek system is a community, and if they choose to support someone, then that's just how they feel," Carroll said.

Carroll said the Machine's goal is not to put students in the traditionally white greek system above students who are not in those groups. Carroll said her administration has

been open to any student playing a role in the SGA and said accusations of student governmental corruption have hurt the positive steps taken by its officials.

"I'm tired of the stereotypes, and I know everyone else is tired of the frivolous stuff, too," Carroll said. "People are trying to be looked at for who they really are."

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## Our Views

### Clap for the Eagles, Sept. 9, 2005

The Sept. 10 football game against Southern Mississippi will be played in the looming shadow of Hurricane Katrina, the monstrosity that devastated much of the Gulf Coast and had a direct impact on Southern Miss.

We need to modify some of our behavior in regard to visiting opponents this week. In short, we need to be classy; not that we're completely obnoxious to visiting teams, but we need to be classier than we usually are.

When the Eagles come onto the field, don't boo, and if you can find it in your heart, you should probably cheer for them. Maybe even give them a standing ovation. If nothing else, sit there in silence.

Also, keep the off-color jeers to yourself. The last thing we need is for the whole nation to see an Alabama fan heckling USM players for not having a house or something equally distasteful.

As far as Rammer Jammer is concerned, we couldn't come to a decision. The Crimson White's editorial board was split down the middle as to whether we should perform the cheer if we win.

If you go to the game, our advice is simple: Don't be a jerk. These people have been through quite enough already.

While it might be tough to admit sometimes, there are some things more important than football.

### On saving Foster Auditorium, Nov. 4, 2005

UA administrators have proven time and time again that if they think a project is important enough they can find the money, and nothing should be more important than saving this important piece of history. It's not a lack of money that has condemned Foster to a slow death. It is lack of effort.

We have to do something, anything to save Foster Auditorium. Once we are able to decide what to do with it, we should try to do something to commemorate the Stand in the Schoolhouse Door.

### On political parties for SGA, Jan. 27, 2006

Only a fifth of students take the time to vote in SGA elections. Will parties makes students care more about the SGA? Apathy stems from a lack of action, or a perceived lack of action, in the SGA. Apathy can be abated only when vibrant student leaders come along with a clear and relevant message to students as to why they should vote. If parties can encourage better candidates, we're all for them.

### On Mary Margaret Carroll's 'Machine' acknowledgment, Feb. 20, 2006

For Carroll, those seven words — "I used to be in the Machine" — were the most important words she has said all year. It was a bold step, one that was made by a person with nothing to lose as a president rapidly approaching the end of her administration. History will now certainly regard her as more than a Machine-backed caretaker president. But if she had been more open and more honest, this could have been something truly historic for the Capstone.

We'll have to take it for what it was — a baby step in the right direction.

*Our Views is the consensus of the CW editorial board.*

### Letter to the Editor, Sept. 15, 2005

#### Professor wants Rammer Jammer to stop

I am surprised and deeply disappointed to be reminded by The Crimson White that we still allow the "Rammer Jammer" cheer at football games.

This kind of vulgar, crude and unsportsmanlike conduct is beneath the dignity of this institution and reflects in no way its heritage or its finest traditions.

I remember fondly a student body that applauded any opposing player who was injured, a student body that would never consider booing a player or even an opponent, a marching band that always played the opponent's fight song at halftime before they broke into "Yea, Alabama" and a coaching staff that did not tolerate trash talk on the field or spontaneous individual displays after every play as if the game should

be ended at that point and someone awarded a medal.

As a matter of fact, in those days we won football games instead of just crowing about the possibility! Maybe there is a connection?

In any case, I call for an immediate cessation of the use of the "Rammer Jammer" cheer, once and for all without exception. Perhaps sophomore students lack the perspective or the maturity to realize just how damaging this self-indulgent, adolescent behavior is, both to the University and to the state.

However, that does not excuse us the faculty, the coaching staff or the administration for allowing this embarrassment to continue. It is intolerable. Stop it now.

Marvin Johnson  
Associate professor of music

## ■ APRIL 24, 2006

# Finding new reasons to live

I still remember his voice. Deep, strong, dark and wild — just like him.

Thirteen years and two days later, it has faded into a mumble in the back of my mind, but it won't go away.

I only remember kindness and beauty in everything he did — the picture frames he would tend on Sunday afternoons, the days we would walk and fish along the brown, shallow creeks in the woods behind my house.

My father loved those woods, and he loved me. He told me so in the glow of the warm April sun before he dropped me off at school that Thursday morning. He meant it.

He hung himself that afternoon before I got home from school.

There was no note. There was no reason why.

All we found was a black King James Bible in the middle bedroom with Psalm 23 highlighted with purple Magic Marker. He used to read it to me, help me practice it for Sunday school. It's the one that starts with "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want," peaks with "the valley of the shadow of death" and ends



#### Damage Control

### Nick Beadle

beadle@cw.ua.edu

with "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

My father was a born-again Christian, as faithful and sure in Christ as anyone I've ever known. But God could not stop him from walking into the woods with a slender white rope that afternoon. The shadow of his depression was too cold, and the scarred, selfish man he never let me know won out.

Depression is a chill numbness I have felt often since the second I knew he was gone. The grief, the betrayal, the embarrassment of his death erased my humanity. I have been trying, awkwardly, since high school to relearn what I

lost.

It's hard — I can walk among humans again, but I still have a limp from the licks I took when I was down.

I learned not to trust. I begged my mother for us not to move. I didn't think I could take leaving the only house I had ever known. I expected an embrace, but there were too few people who were kind, caring and patient with my grief, and too many like the boy who told me, "If you were my son, I'd kill myself, too," or the church counselor who told my mother and me to "get over it" soon after my father was gone.

And I learned to hide the truth like a bullet stuck in my heart. I could no longer handle the trepidation and questions. I couldn't keep letting in spectators to watch for the day that I would slide a slender noose around my neck.

Given the family history, I'm a safer bet. So is my brother, who was 2 when my father died, but has the dark skin, hair and eyes that defined him so well.

Like anyone else, life always finds new ways to kick my ass. There are days where the urge to forfeit my existence gnaws at my gut with cold steel teeth,

and the world pushes me to give in.

But I think of the 15-year-old boy who only knows his father as a picture in the living room and a white granite tombstone, and I have the only reason I need to never give up. Every hour I've worked the past five years has been to make this world a better place for him and everyone else I love.

I've been hiding my scars for so long, but I can't do that anymore. I've seen too many people willing to give up their lives and ruin someone else's the past couple years.

I want to show them what will happen to who or what they care about if they give in. I want to help people find new reasons to live, new meanings for life that make them a little stronger and the world a little less cruel.

I live because I've been through the worst, and few days from here out will be as dark.

I live for the people who depend on me and expect me to make it through.

I live for the day I hear that voice and do not cry.

Nick Beadle was The Crimson White's 2005-06 managing editor for news.

## ■ AUGUST 19, 2005



CW/ Sean Hoade

## ■ DEC. 1, 2005

# Redheads are the real minority

In a recent episode of "South Park," Cartman becomes a redhead and, upon being made fun of and ostracized by everyone around him, he snaps and gathers all the redheads to lead a revolt of the "Gingers." It might be funny to you, but to me it's yet another reminder of the cultural insensitivity my people have endured for centuries.

For far too long, we redheads have lived quietly under a cloak of discrimination. Even with today's obsession with cultural diversity, redheads remain the victims of stereotypes and insensitivity in a way no other minority tolerates.

That's right, I said "minority." Redheads are perhaps the minority of minorities.

We are so rare (1 percent of the population), in fact, that we're going extinct. Earlier this year, a scientist at the Oxford Hair Foundation in the United Kingdom predicted redheads might be eradicated from the population by 2060 because the gene that causes red hair is recessive. Sure, the Native Americans had it bad, but they'll at least be around in 2060.

And like other minorities, redheads have faced historical hardships. The Potato Famine wasn't much compared to the Trail of Tears or slavery, but did you know that ancient



#### Kiss My Otts

### Chris Otts

otts@cw.ua.edu

Egyptians used to bury redheads alive as a sacrifice to the sun god? Or that pagan witches thought the fat of redheads was a necessary ingredient for spells?

But really, it's the long tradition of stereotypes that has kept the redhead down — treatment today's society would denounce if it were directed at any other minority.

Allow me to share some personal experiences with those of you who have never known the joy of a second-degree sunburn. "Hey, red." Since I can remember, that's what people have called me when they can't remember my name. OK, it seems harmless. But can you imagine what would happen if you didn't know the name of the one black guy in a room full of people and you called out,

"Hey, black?"

In high school, I learned to live with the nickname "fire crotch," and every day a different person thought he was first one on Earth clever enough to ask me if the curtains match the carpet.

Once, I got a detention for talking back to a biology teacher, and when I had to apologize to her the next day, she grabbed my hair and said, "Now, son, you've just got to learn to control that redheaded temper of yours." You would think a biology teacher would know that no study has ever linked redheadedness with temper.

And what if a Mexican student had forgotten to turn in his homework? How fast would that same teacher have been fired if she said, "Now, you just need to control that Mexican laziness of yours?"

Alas, the insensitivity continued into college. A few months ago, I was at a local bar, and I looked across at these two guys because I didn't know why they were looking at me and laughing. "What?" I asked. "You're killing me, Smalls," one of them said between fits of laughter.

You see, just like Asians, all of us redheads look alike. Therefore, I look just like that annoying fat kid from the movie, "The Sandlot."

A few months ago, one of my own sports writers tried to call

Southern Miss the "redheaded stepchild" of Alabama. Of all the stereotypes my people endure, we can't stand the notion that we're all illegitimate, genetically defective children. Thanks, Bruce Springsteen, for writing, "It takes a redheaded woman to get a dirty job done."

And on top of all that, we have to deal with Carrot Top, who isn't a real redhead yet manages to set our people back with each terrible collect call commercial.

I've had it. It's time for society to start appreciating its redheads. Heck, I've overcome the odds to succeed at this fine University. I think I deserve a scholarship. Perhaps the new Crossroads Community Center could declare a Redheaded History Month on campus so we recognize great redheads such as Queen Elizabeth I and George Washington.

I'm telling you, culturally sensitive world: We redheads add diversity. And we won't be around much longer. If you're not going to give me preferential treatment on a job application, could you at least drop the curtains-carpet joke?

The Gingers are getting fed up.

Chris Otts was the 2005-06 editor of The Crimson White.

■ JAN. 19, 2006

# Can men write about sex?

Right before the fall semester ended, the same strange incident occurred on a few separate occasions. Several male UA students approached me and wondered if it would be possible for The CW to run a sex column from the male point of view alongside Liz Stierwalt's "Come With Me".

I initially found these incidents strange because I personally had never been and still haven't been exposed to a sex column written by a man. After each pitch I thought, "Sure, why not?" It's important to get both sides on a matter as significant and educational as sex. A man's opinion would be vastly helpful and would give the males of the Capstone information and insight with which they could purely identify.

About a split-second after this notion, however, I retracted my first thought and instantly struck it from the record. I thought I was crazy for originally agreeing to do this. After all, The CW has already received its fair share of criticism from the detractors on Stierwalt's column, which was certainly expected.

I eventually came to the conclusion that it isn't logically possible to have a straight male sex columnist or, if there is one, to take his commentary seriously. Keep in mind that we're talking about a straight college male.

For me, the most important



If I Were You

**Ben Flanagan**  
flanagan@cw.ua.edu

characteristic of a columnist is his ability to think and write his precise thoughts on paper. Nothing can be built up or edited down (considering the writing skills of the columnist or the inflexibility of the editor).

To be blunt, the mind of a single straight college male is a deep, dark and scary path that leads to a despicable and vulgar utopia that if one were to hear the thoughts with human ears, his head would instantaneously explode.

For this particular kind of male's thoughts to be released as words for others to hear, they must go through a series of processes that basically trim them down to what could be considered suitable, which would still sound pretty appalling. It's kind of like taking an NC-17-rated movie before the Motion Picture Association of America and cleaning it up until it's a

hard R. If there were to be a male sex columnist, would the campus really be interested in who he previously "drilled" or "tore up" the weekend before?

Picture the characters in the film "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and multiply that by at least 10,000. Every week, we would be treated to explicit terms, such as "junk," "filled up," "musty dugout" and much more. New, more disgusting views on shaving would cause you to reintroduce yourself to the eight-pack of chicken nuggets you just ate at the Ferg. The "how-to" guides would be appalling and would have you begging to hear Stierwalt instruct the public on doggy-style.

Basically, the only way this campus, or anyone for that matter, could handle a male sex columnist is if he were a homosexual commenting on straight relationships. If he were to write about his own experiences, this campus would have a fit.

A female will always rule the sex column. It all just reinforces the fact that women are so proper and so much better at putting vulgarities into words, though I've never been inside a women's bathroom to hear any conversations.

*Ben Flanagan was the 2005-06 entertainment editor of The Crimson White.*

■ Feb. 17, 2006

# A smell that lingers over all

The smell of charcoal: It could be fresh steaks on the grill, it could be a roaring campfire — or it could be something much more sinister.



My View

**Will Nevin**  
nevin@cw.ua.edu

whining and squeaking hearing aid. "They had it fixed up real nice in there."

Barnes had come to the church to survey the damage and to visit two brothers buried in the church's cemetery.

The church is now nothing more than skeletal remains. Looking through one of the many broken windows, you can see the twisted rubble of what was once a sanctuary brilliantly illuminated by sunshine.

Among the ash and debris, three latex gloves litter the ground, undoubtedly left by forgetful ATF agents as they scoured the scene for any clues that could lead them to the perpetrators.

At the door to the sanctuary, a fire extinguisher is still attached to the wall, unused and unable to perform in its moment of need. A row of pews remains upright and fairly untouched on the left side of church; their red upholstery colors a world that has become muddled

shades of gray. In a back room, part of an artificial Christmas wreath is still intact.

"It's somebody sorry that's done this," Barnes said.

For Barnes, sorry does not mean "feeling sorrow, regret or penitence" as Merriam-Webster defines it. For Barnes, it means low-down, despicable. It means worthless. It means the people that burned down that church.

Standing next to the remains of the Beaverton Freewill Baptist Church in the teeth of a cold February wind, the smell of charcoal fills the air. Soon, it fills your nostrils, cakes your clothes and bathes your brain.

Soon, it's the only thing you can think about. It's the same smell I found at the burned cinderblock foundation of Rehobeth Baptist Church. It's the same smell I found at the charred communion table of Antioch Baptist Church.

As these churches have burned all across the great state of Alabama, it has become a smell that festers over all of us — a smell that will linger until these men are brought to justice.

Charcoal. I'm beginning to hate the smell.

*Will Nevin was the 2005-06 opinions editor of The Crimson White.*



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# INbrief

from staff reports...

## DKE house to be torn down

The Delta Kappa Epsilon house on University Boulevard, the University's oldest fraternity house, will be torn down May 23 to make way for construction on the new Bryant-Denny Stadium Plaza. Ground will be broken in August on a new \$5 million DKE house across the street on the former site of Gorgas Hall.

While the successor to the "Mansion on the Hill" is being built, the DKEs will live in a building at Bryce Lawn Apartments. A 3,000-square-foot temporary dining/meeting hall and portable kitchen will be deposited next to the building.

Gorgas, a former dormitory that had housed the UA Police Department since the 1960s, was razed during Christmas break. UAPD now operates out of New Hall, another former dormitory behind the President's Mansion and Rose Administration Building.

## UA enrollment sets record

UA President Robert Witt, speaking at the fall faculty and staff meeting on Oct. 25, 2005, said a record 21,750 students are enrolled at the University — an increase of 781 students, or 3.7 percent, from last year. The 2005 freshman class, which consists of 3,739 students, is the largest ever at the University.

The large freshman class will keep enrollment on pace to reach Witt's goal of 28,000 students by 2013.

"We are now the dominant university for students in the state," Witt said. "It's clear that students and their parents are coming to understand the quality of programs at the University of Alabama."

But Witt said UA officials are mindful of the Capstone's quality, not only the number of students enrolled.

"As important as record enrollment is, the quality of students here is even more important," he said. "We have grown the University while increasing quality."

Witt said though this year's freshman class is larger than those in the past, the academic profile of the class is about the same. The average GPA and ACT score of incoming students remained at about 3.4 and 24, respectively.

Diversity has remained a priority for UA officials as efforts are made to increase enrollment, Witt said. There have been 43 percent more black students enrolled since 2002, which is well above the University's 11 percent growth overall in the same time frame.

## UA president and wife file for divorce

UA President Robert Witt and his wife, Anne, filed for divorce in Tuscaloosa County Circuit Court on Aug. 24. The divorce became official on Sept. 23.

"There exists such a complete incompatibility of temperament between them that they can no longer live together, and further, that there has been an irretrievable breakdown of their marriage such that further attempts at reconciliation would be impractical and futile and not in their best interest," the deposition reads.

The Witt's have agreed on the terms of the divorce, according to the filing. Anne Witt would be allowed to live in the home owned by the couple in Northport as long as she remains unmarried and Robert Witt remains in his position as UA president. President Witt will also pay \$2,700 a month in alimony.

The Witts married in 1977. The two met at the University of Texas, where they lived in the same apartment complex. The couple had no children together, but Anne Witt has two children from a previous marriage, 34 and 24, respectively.

## OBITS

Continued from Page 1

several years through Wren's brother, Taff.

The accident occurred at 11:29 p.m. Oct. 29 while Wren was trying to negotiate a curve on a private drive in Bartow County, Ga., Georgia State Patrol operator Brian Brutchett told The Daily Tribune News. The car flipped, and Wren was ejected from the vehicle.

Wren loved to hang out with friends and have a good time, Dennis said.

"He was the type of person who, if there was nothing to do, would make something to do," he said. "Everybody knew him; everybody liked him."

Phi Delta Theta President Will Demeranville, a junior from Mobile majoring in restaurant and hospitality management, died Feb. 4 at DCH Regional Medical Center from injuries suffered after an accident at the fraternity house early Feb. 3.

UA spokeswoman Cathy Andreen said Demeranville was transported via ambulance to DCH at 3:15 a.m. Feb. 3 after suffering a fall at the Phi Delt house.

Phi Delt Treasurer Patrick Boles said Demeranville fell down the stairs.

Boles, who played football with Demeranville at McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile, said Demeranville was a good friend and one of the main reasons he joined the fraternity.

"As a fraternity, we lost a lot in Will's death," Boles said. "We

lost a great friend, a tremendous leader and president, and someone who always pushed everyone to succeed."

Leisha Perry, a UA senior from Anniston majoring in political science, died Feb. 18 in a three-vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 82 just outside Prattville.

Perry's car was hit head-on by a woman driving her car on the wrong side of the road at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 18, said Donald Frazier, a spokesman for the Alabama State Trooper's Office in Montgomery. He said a third vehicle hit the cars after the initial accident.

Perry was the only person who died in the accident, Frazier said. He said that Stephanie Gravlee, 41, of Prattville, who was driving the car that hit Perry, was taken to the hospital for injuries, and the driver of the third vehicle, Donald Dobbins of Billingsley, was unharmed in the crash.

Perry's boyfriend James "Anthony" Sullivan, a 2005 Stillman College graduate who lives in Montgomery, said he and Perry had been dating for two years and that he'd hoped they would get married one day. With Perry gone, Sullivan said he's waiting for time to heal the pain of his loss.

He said his home has many things that often remind him of Perry.

"When I look at things in my house that she helped decorate, it brings back memories, and I'll get depressed or start crying again," Sullivan said.

UA junior John Thornton died in a one-car accident on Interstate 65 April 16, two days

before his 20th birthday.

Thornton's accident occurred around 2:40 p.m. April 16 in Autauga County. He was headed northbound on Interstate 65 when his car ran off the road, overcorrected and overturned, according to a report in The Montgomery Advertiser.

The paper reported that the Autauga County coroner said Thornton was found dead at the scene of the accident near mile marker 192.

Weigand said Thornton, who was majoring in philosophy, spent almost every day at Crimson Café on the Strip drinking coffee and holding long conversations with friends. He was known for his unique personality, all the way down to his insistence on always dressing up, Weigand said.

"John was notorious for being really well dressed," he said. "He even went running in khaki pants." Several UA instructors also passed away this academic year. William Samson, a UA accounting professor, died Sept. 15 while attending an academic conference for accounting historians in Wales, United Kingdom.

Samson was on a sabbatical this semester, which allowed him more time for research and travel, UA Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration Dean Barry Mason said, because Samson "had a special passion and interest in accounting history."

Dale Flesher, associate dean at the University of Mississippi School of Accountancy, and

Gary John Previts, accounting professor at Case Western Reserve University, wrote in a memorial to Samson, "Bill Samson was unique. No other accounting historian has had his likeness and his story told on the front page of The Wall Street Journal.

"But he would be the first to point out that being a poster child for accounting history was not what pleased him the most. Rather, his life with Joan and the collection of pets and perhaps the Harley, which he drove with all of the abandon of a 'rebel with a cause,' were perhaps the center of the spirited person we grew to know so well. Indeed, living was something Bill well did beyond his writings and his classroom teaching."

Former education professor Harold Bishop died Oct. 21.

Joyce Stallworth, associate dean of the UA College of Education, said Bishop was an extremely hard worker and touched the lives of his students daily.

"He was just a giant in our college, in the state and in the nation," Stallworth said. "It is a tremendous loss, but he leaves behind a tremendous legacy."

Bishop had been involved with the UA College of Education since 1974 and also served as a consultant to more than 100 school systems across the state. He ran for the position of chairman of the Tuscaloosa city school board in 1991 but lost.

David Weaver, a geography professor who served as chairman of the department for 13

years, died April 3. He was 63.

Weaver drowned in Lake Tuscaloosa, said Gerald Webster, the current geography chairman.

Weaver was the longest-serving member of the geography department, Webster said. Weaver was an instrumental member of the department, Webster said. Weaver was also serving as director of the Regional and Urban Planning Program at the University at the time of his death, Webster said.

Weaver's daughter, Valerie Weaver, said her father had an interest in gardening and loved working in his yard. He also enjoyed teaching his students and participating in K-12 teaching institutes about geography, she said.

"He enjoyed teaching his geography of the national parks classes the most," Valerie said.

Ute Winston, an instructor at the University for more than 20 years, died April 4. She was 66.

Many of Winston's colleagues and students said Winston was loved by her students. Joseph Hornsby, director of Blount Undergraduate Initiative, said Winston was a valuable asset to the Blount program. Winston was teaching a Blount class this semester.

"She was a great teacher and she loved teaching, and the students loved her," Hornsby said. "She was a very student-friendly teacher."

"Our program will be lesser because she isn't going to be with us anymore."

# INbrief

from staff/wire reports...

## Sports Briefs

### Baseball knocks off No. 1 two weeks in a row

Just weeks after a win over Appalachian State made head coach Jim Wells the winningest coach in Alabama baseball history, the Crimson Tide continued to make waves by defeating the No. 1 team in the nation on consecutive weekends. The Tide bested top-ranked Mississippi State two games to one on the weekend of March 31, then faced new No. 1 South Carolina a week later and again won two of the three games in the series.

The Tide has since compiled a 34-13 record (15-6 SEC) and leads the SEC heading into the final weeks of the regular season. The Tide is currently ranked No. 5 in the nation by the Collegiate Baseball poll.

### Softball marks 10th anniversary with strong season

The Alabama softball team celebrated its 10th season in 2006 with one of its strongest regular-season performances in program history compiling an impressive 45-8 record.

The Crimson Tide dominated the rest of the SEC winning 22 of its first 26

conference games and slugging its way to fourth place in the ESPN.com poll.

### Smith joins Tide women, dismisses star players

The Alabama women's basketball team struggled in its first season under new head coach Stephany Smith, finishing the season with an 11-19 (3-16 SEC) record after losing to Vanderbilt in the first round of the SEC Tournament.

On Feb. 7, Smith dismissed the team's leading scorer Marverly Nettles along with senior center Krystle Johnson. Smith declined to explain her decision to the public.

### Former booster found dead in Memphis estate

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Former Alabama booster

Logan Young, who was convicted of bribing a high school coach to get a top recruit for the Crimson Tide, was found dead in his home on April 11.

Young was convicted in 2005 on money laundering and racketeering conspiracy charges after a federal court found him guilty of paying high school coach Lynn Lang to persuade defensive line recruit Albert Means to sign with the University.

Young's actions became part of an NCAA investigation that led to sanctions against Alabama in 2002, costing the Tide scholarships and bowl appearances.

Police, at first, described the death as a brutal murder, with one official stating, "The nature of the attack was brutal. The entire house is a crime scene."

Police later revised their assessment of the death, saying that Young slipped and hit

his head on a railing, eventually dying from the blood loss.

No suspects were charged,

and the case has been officially labeled an accidental death.

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# INbrief

from staff reports ...

Rammer Jammer approved, amendments voted down, Various Dates

Two amendments to the SGA constitution failed and the Rammer Jammer cheer earned a moral victory in October's Homecoming election, which saw voter turnout up by more than 1,000 votes from last year.

The Rammer Jammer cheer got a 98 percent thumbs up from students, with only 95 students voting against it. The vote, however, does not have any legal bearing on the fate of Rammer Jammer.

An amendment to abolish dual candidacy for SGA elections failed after falling shy of the 66 percent needed for amendments to be approved. It garnered 60 percent of the vote. Dual candidacy is a practice by which students run for an SGA executive position and a Senate seat at the same time.

An amendment to remove outdated language in the SGA Constitution requiring candidates to file petitions before they are eligible to run for office also failed to get a two-thirds majority vote.

Shortly after the spring semester began, the SGA Judicial Board, exercising its judicial review for the first time in SGA history, ruled that both proposed amendments on the ballot were put there in violation of SGA rules and the votes were considered null and void.

First black frat returns to campus

April 14, 2006

The UA chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, the first traditionally black fraternity on campus, presented its first class of new initiates since its two-year suspension for hazing ended last spring.

Though the fraternity has been officially reinstated, it is still without on-campus housing, said Vincent Palmer, vice president of the fraternity. Its old house, which was lost after the suspension, is now occupied by another organization. He said the fraternity is on a waiting list for a new house and has been working on arranging housing.

"We're trying to get our old house back, but I think we would appreciate anything right now," Palmer said.

The new pledge class was presented on April 8 at their Probate show.

Cleo Thomas, the first and only black SGA president of the University, is a Kappa Alpha Psi alumnus.

"The chapter is a vital part of the seven provinces of the fraternity and the fraternity nationally, so we are delighted to have it back in active status," Thomas said. "We just hope to maintain that status and be in good standing and compliance with all of the applicable rules, and I'm confident that they will be."

UA grad to pilot shuttle mission

Nov. 11, 2005

James Kelly, the University's first astronaut, will pilot the Space Shuttle Discovery after its liftoff, which was scheduled for July 13, 2005. The mission was NASA's first since the shuttle Columbia broke apart during re-entry more than two years ago, killing all seven astronauts on board.

Kelly, who graduated from the University with a master's degree in aerospace engineering in 1996, and six other astronauts travelled to the International Space Station with supplies and replacement parts. The crew was scheduled to make three space walks while at the space station.

Kelly made one previous trip to space in 2001 and has spent more than 300 hours in space. He was one of only 10 pilots selected in NASA's 1996 class.

■ MARCH 9, 2006

# B'ham students charged in church fires

Students charged with conspiracy, arson in nine fires

By MARLIN CADDELL  
Metro/State Editor  
■ caddell@cw.ua.edu

A joke that "got out of hand" and left nine churches in rural Alabama burned came to the punch line Wednesday when investigators arrested three young suspects in connection with the blazes.

Benjamin Nathan Moseley, 19, Russell Lee Dubusk Jr., 19, and Matthew Lee Cloyd, 20, were arrested and arraigned on federal charges Wednesday in connection with the Feb. 2 fire at Ashby Baptist Church in Bibb County.

In state court, Cloyd and Moseley each were indicted on nine counts of second-degree arson and nine counts of third-degree burglary. DeBusk was charged with five counts of second-degree arson and five counts of third-degree burglary.

Moseley and Dubusk are students at Birmingham-Southern College, a private United Methodist Church affiliated school. Cloyd is a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

FBI special agent Carmen Adams said FBI agents are still looking into the case but are not going to pursue hate crime charges. The hearing in the case is scheduled for Friday, but the suspects have not been indicted for the arsons.

More charges are possible in the case, said Alice Martin, the U.S. attorney for northern Alabama, but she didn't know if the state also planned to press charges in the arsons.

At a press conference, Gov. Bob Riley said the arsons were an isolated incident and weren't any type of conspiracy against organized religion or the Baptist faith.

"The faith-based community can rest a little easier," he said.

If the suspects are convicted, each arson count has a minimum prison sentence of five years and a fine up to \$500,000.

Birmingham-Southern officials suspended and banned Moseley and Dubusk from campus.

In a court affidavit, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives special agent Walker Johnson said Cloyd told an unnamed witness that he "had done something stupid."

"Cloyd stated to the witness that Moseley did it as a joke and it got out of hand," Johnson said in the affidavit.

In the affidavit, Debusk said he, Cloyd and Moseley had traveled to Bibb County on Feb. 2 to hunt deer. Moseley said the three suspects had set fire to two churches in the county early in the morning on Feb. 3 when they realized firefighters were quickly responding to the fires, according to the affidavit.

"Burning the other three churches [on Feb. 3] became too spontaneous," Moseley said in the affidavit.

The five churches in Bibb County were the first in the set of nine to be burned.

On Feb. 6, Moseley and Cloyd returned to west Alabama and burned four other churches "as a diversion to throw investigators off," Moseley said in the affidavit.

"The diversion obviously didn't work," Moseley said in the affidavit.

ATF special agent Jim Cavanaugh, who led the investigation into the arsons, said investigators were following 1,000 leads with no break in the case.

"We only knew a couple of ghosts were rampaging through Alabama," Cavanaugh said. "But we just pushed and pushed for a break, and we forced a break in the case."

The break came, according to the affidavit, when investigators found a common tire track at six of the nine churches burned. The "very distinctive" tracks belonged to special tires on a 2000

green Toyota 4Runner that belonged to Cloyd's mother, Kimberly.

"We collected the dots, and then we connected the dots," Cavanaugh said.

Although investigators opened a tip line for witnesses to call with information, Cavanaugh said no one came forward with information. Investigators had to rely on "old-fashioned police work" to lead them to the suspects.

Cloyd's father, Michael, said in the affidavit that Russell Cloyd admitted knowing who committed the arsons and Cloyd was with the arsonists when they set the fires.

A message posted on Jan. 3 by Cloyd to Moseley on Facebook.com said that it was time to "reconvene the season of evil."

Near the end of the message there is a pledge that asks, among other things, "May our girlfriends be concerned about our safety, may our parents be clueless, [and] may our beers be frosty."

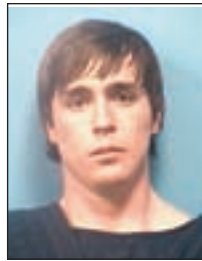
The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Ben Moseley



Russel DeBusk Jr.



Matthew Cloyd



Damage caused by a fire at Beaverton Freewill Baptist Church is shown Feb. 12, in Beaverton. Investigators have determined that the fire was arson.

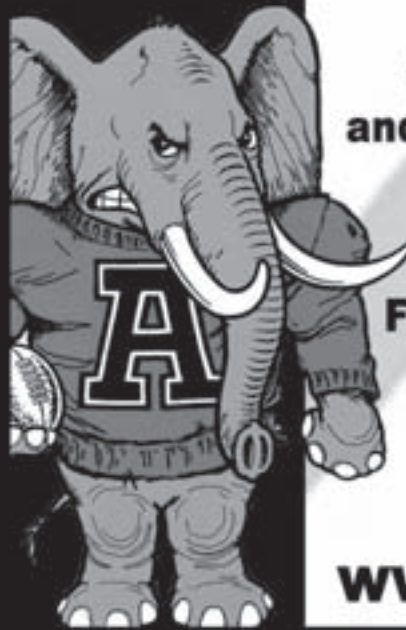
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## INbrief

from staff reports ...

## Supreme Court Justices Thomas and Breyer visit Capstone, Various Dates

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas visited the campus on Nov. 11, telling students about his nomination battles and other battles he has faced during his tenure.

Justice Stephen Breyer came to the Capstone on March 11, talking to students about the development of peaceful adherence to the law.

Breyer said he thinks of the Constitution as a living document that changes as citizens' "discussions bubble up into the court system."

"Judges get into the act at the end, not the beginning," he said, indicating that he doesn't think any of the judges on the court fit the criteria of judicial activist.

Thomas said the Supreme Court confirmation process for judges is so heated that federal court judges turn down the chance to serve on the Supreme Court because of it.

He said the process should be "scaled back."

Thomas said the courts were being "held hostage" by the issue of abortion, which has taken center stage in every confirmation hearing since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973.

While Breyer didn't talk specifically about the abortion decision Roe v. Wade, he said precedents were difficult, but not impossible, to overturn.

## UA brings back BamaMail for good, Oct. 6, 2005

BamaMail, the University's official e-mail client until early June, made a comeback on Oct. 5, 2005, by replacing the e-mail service in myBama because of numerous complaints about the new system.

myBama will still be used for scheduling, administration and other services — only the e-mail client has been changed.

"BamaMail is back by popular demand," said Shawn Blackburn, project manager for myBama. "A lot of folks do not like myBama."

Blackburn said students can access their e-mail accounts by visiting the BamaMail site directly or through the e-mail icon on the myBama homepage, which redirects users to the BamaMail Web site.

At the beginning of the semester, UA technology officials received between 10 and 15 complaints about the myBama e-mail client every other day, Blackburn said.

"Faculty, staff and students made calls and sent e-mails to the Help Desk and to me with complaints," he said. "We want the user community to understand that we are listening to them."

## Maddox wins election for mayor, Sept. 14, 2005

In a mayoral election that some thought might come down to the wire, City Councilman Walter Maddox pulled out a solid victory September 13 against contender Sammy Watson.

Maddox defeated Watson 53.99 percent to 46.01 percent. Maddox garnered 7,096 votes to Watson's 6,047. Maddox will replace six-term mayor Al Dupont.

Watson defeated Maddox by a small margin in District 4, which covers the University and its surrounding neighborhoods. Watson brought in 440 votes while Maddox brought 363, a 77-vote difference.

Watson beat Maddox in the general election Aug. 3, 38.05 to 31.1 percent.

Maddox replaced six-term mayor Al Dupont.

■ FEB. 2, 2006

## Students live in houses illegally

Landlords fail to register 4- to 5-person houses

By KRISTEN TROTTER  
Senior Staff Reporter  
■ reporter@cw.ua.edu

Tommy Howell and Patrick Cornelius live on 12th Street in a house with three other guys.

"It's messy," said Howell, a junior majoring in public relations. "That's what you get when you have five guys living in one house."

But that's not all you get. It's possible any UA students living in a house of more than three unrelated people could end up with a court summons, a fine and a judge's orders to move out.

A city ordinance passed in May 2005 created a specially designated zone around campus that allows up to five unrelated people to live in one house — but only if landlords get special permission from the city to let more than three unrelated people live there.

That means all UA students who live in houses with more than three people are breaking a city ordinance.

To get permission from the city to house four or five unrelated people, landlords must make improvements to the property, including adding parking so that tenants don't have to park on the lawn, adding bathrooms and/or bedrooms and dividing some larger houses to make two residences.

In May 05, city councilmen and UA officials praised the new requirements as an incentive for landlords to invest in fixing up residences near campus, which will make for better housing options for students as the University grows to a projected 28,000 students in the next several years.

UA Vice President of Community Affairs Samory Pruitt called the plan "solid" and praised the cooperation between the city government and the University.

When the new law was discussed, Councilman Joe Powell warned that the occupancy rules would be hard for the city to enforce.

Howell and Cornelius had no idea when they moved into their house that they were breaking city rules. Only three of the five people living there signed the lease, Cornelius said, but every month they send five checks for rent to their landlord, Sherill Realty Company Inc.



Tommy Howell, a junior majoring in public relations, and Patrick Cornelius, a junior majoring in marketing, sit on the porch on 12th Street.

"They never said anything about it," Howell said. "It's kind of shocking, to tell you the truth."

Another realty company they went to refused to rent to five people, said Cornelius, a junior majoring in marketing, but Sherrill Realty never mentioned it.

"They know that we have five people living here," Cornelius said. "They advertised it as five bedrooms."

Many students are not aware of the occupancy restrictions, McConnell said.

"Landlords will take advantage of that and purposely sign only three to a lease," he said.

The city does not aggressively enforce the ordinance because McConnell is the only zoning inspector who can enforce it.

Senior city planner Vanessa Llera said the city enforces the ordinance mostly through complaints because it does not have the manpower to check on every residence. The city tries to investigate every complaint, she said, but even then it can be hard.

"It's very difficult to pinpoint that there are more than three people living there," she said.

McConnell said the violations are usually discovered when police respond to a complaint, such as a noise complaint from a loud party, and ask who lives in the house.

When more than three people step forward, the police inform McConnell. If he finds a violation, the residents receive an automatic court summons. He said he only sees about 10 or 12 cases a year taken to court.

"I've seen the judge fine [the residents] and give them orders to leave," he said. The

property owner has to significantly upgrade the property, complying to stringent criteria, which can be expensive.

"We're talking about almost tearing down a house and rebuilding it from scratch," he said.

"There's a lot of money involved in investing in the property," he said. He added that he cannot speak for property owners. "I can only speculate" as to why they haven't applied, he said.

Several local real estate companies declined to comment. Sherill Realty could not be reached for comment.

Llera warned students to be cautious when dealing with contracts and living arrangements.

"One thing you have to be aware of when you go off to school is that contracts matter," she said. "You always have to think about the legal ramifications of what you do."

Maddox said he wants to create a police division to enforce zoning ordinances, such as the number of people allowed to live in one house.

"It's important that we enact ordinances that are not paper tigers," Maddox said. "This will provide the manpower to investigate these more thoroughly."

The division would not be created until 2007 or 2008, Maddox said. The idea still has to go through the City Council.

Councilman Lee Garrison, who represents the UA area, said he would support the creation of the code enforcement division.

"Hopefully in the near future we'll have people taking advantage of the better occupancy laws," he said.

Maddox said the code enforcement division would investigate students only as complaints are received.

Officers will not go house-hunting for ordinance violators, he said.

In its first stages the new city department will be made up of city employees, but any new employees hired to the division will be police officers, and eventually the entire department will be police officers, Maddox said. The division would enforce other zoning rules besides the occupancy limit.

Tuscaloosa Police Chief Ken Swindle said the police department would have to hire five additional police officers to fill the spots, which could be a problem since the police department cannot fill its own ranks.

"Right now we're 20 police officers short," Swindle said. "But hopefully by the time the mayor implements this plan we'll have enough police officers."

The ordinance is currently enforced on a complaint basis, McConnell said. If the city, or police department, receives a complaint and discovers that more than three people live in the house, the residents and the landlord can be taken to court and fined.

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■ JAN. 27, 2006

# UA seeking funds to save Foster

Officials consider fundraiser to restore site of Wallace's Stand

By **STEPHEN DAWKINS**  
Administrative Affairs Editor  
■ dawkins@cw.ua.edu

For years, UA officials have acknowledged the ailing state of Foster Auditorium, the site of former Gov. George Wallace's infamous 1963 Stand in the Schoolhouse Door. But administrators have never taken steps to renovate and save the building.

Now, however, they are considering a large-scale fundraising effort to restore the historic site, UA Vice President for Community Affairs Samory Pruitt said.

"An official campaign has not been started," Pruitt said in an e-mail. "We are still in the talking phase that includes identifying potential donors and agreeing on a specific use for Foster."

Pruitt said there is no timetable yet for raising the funds or beginning renovations, and he declined to comment further.

Last semester, UA President Robert Witt said he would like to renovate Foster, but it would cost as much as \$15 million, money the University does not have because renovations on classroom buildings, such as Graves and Lloyd halls, are a higher priority. And, unlike borrowing money to build a dorm, a renovated Foster would not generate any money to pay for itself, Witt said.

Therefore, private donations or federal grants are needed for Foster's renovation, he said.

Grants would probably come in the tens or hundreds of thousands — not millions, said Gene Ford, architectural historian in the UA Office of Archeological Research.

Foster was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in February 2005, which makes extra funds possible "upon availability," Ford said.

"Given Foster Auditorium's status, it would certainly be a frontrunner for any grants," said Ford, who wrote the building's nomination to the register.

Historic landmark status makes Foster eligible for grants from national and state organizations such as Save America's Treasures, the National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Alabama Historical Commission, he said.

Kelli Harris, development coordinator for UA Museums who is working to raise funds for the museum in Moundville, said Foster's history opens up many different sources of funds.

"Of course people always want to save the historic buildings," Harris said. "I know that there is money out there."

Ford said he was not surprised discussions about Foster are still preliminary.

"I think there is a whole lot of indecision in many different directions," Ford said. "Nobody's quite sure what to do with it. It really does take planning and a lot of effort."

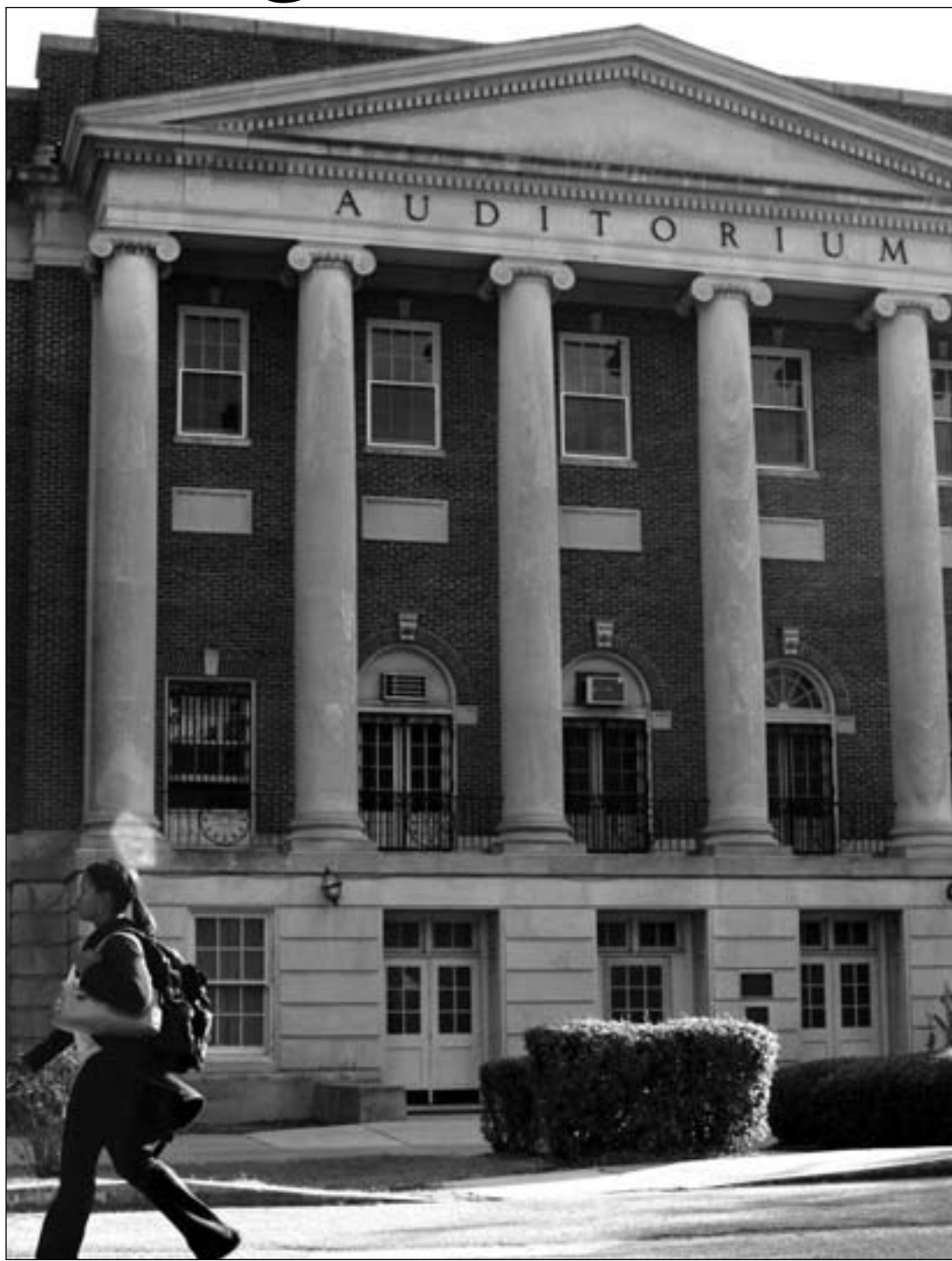
Ford said turning Foster into a new student union building, which Witt has floated as one possibility, would "take some clever design" to keep the building's "historic integrity" intact.

But using Foster for any purpose would be better than its current state of neglect, he said.

"The longevity of any building is predicated on its use," Ford said.

A few years ago there was a push from students and faculty members to make Foster into a multicultural center, but that idea is off the table now that the Crossroads Community Center is open in the Ferguson Center, Witt said in October.

SGA President Mary Margaret Carroll, who has pushed the administration to take steps to renovate the



building, declined to comment on the developments.

During the Stand, Wallace attempted to block two black students from enrolling at the Capstone.

E. Culpepper Clark, a UA

historian who wrote a book about the Stand, told The Crimson White in November that Foster and the Stand's significance in the civil rights movement should not be overlooked.

"Under normal circumstances that building should be bulldozed," said Clark, dean of the College of Communication and Information Sciences. "But that's not a normal building."



CW/ Kristen Mance

LEFT: Dawn Hammonds, a graduate student majoring in social work, walks past Foster Auditorium. UA officials have started a fundraising effort to renovate the ailing but historic building. It was the site of former Gov. George Wallace's Stand in the Schoolhouse Door in 1963. RIGHT: The top level of Foster is closed because of asbestos.

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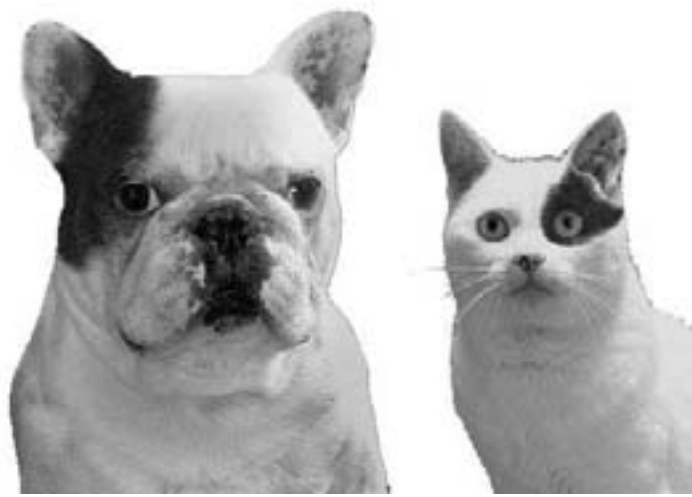
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# HURRICANE

Continued from Page 1



CW/ T.G. Paschal

Christina Graham, a sophomore majoring in public relations, plays with three year old Caddel of New Orleans. Graham, along with other students, volunteered at the Rec Center for the temporary American Red Cross shelter for Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

and plan for classes to continue on our regular schedule. We've had no injuries — that is certainly good news."

More than a week after the hurricane, many UA students still didn't have electricity.

UA spokeswoman Cathy Andreen said there were no injuries reported on campus.

Brad Fisher, spokesman for DCH Regional Medical Center, said the hospital treated three Katrina-related injuries in Tuscaloosa, but noted there might be more.

Two of the injuries were caused by car accidents, Fisher said. He did not comment on the cause of the third injury or the conditions of any of the patients.

A tree collapsed on a house on 13th Street Monday night.

Michael Davis, who lives in the house, said he was next door talking to his neighbors when he heard a loud boom and felt the ground shake.

The tree fell onto his home as well as a parked car with two women inside it, he said.

## Rec takes on double duty in Katrina's wake

Though the UA Rec Center re-opened to students Sept. 1, nothing is back to normal for the some 500 refugees from Gulf Coast areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, who are using its gym as a shelter.

Three strips of yellow caution tape cover the doors to the gym area where a Red Cross shelter is set up for more than 600 people seeking refuge from areas ravaged by the storm. The gym with the indoor volleyball and racquetball courts is still closed off to students.

The University will keep the Rec Center open indefinitely as a shelter, UA Vice President for Student Affairs Margaret King said. She said as long as shelter is needed, it will be available.

About 500 people have taken refuge in the shelter, King said.

Megann Bates, director of the UA Community Service Center, said the professional Rec Center staff has worked "around the

## ■ OCT. 19, 2005

# New Orleanians decide: Move back or move on?

Six weeks after Katrina, many wonder whether it's worth coming home

By CHRIS OTTS  
Editor  
■ otts@cw.ua.edu

*This is an abridged version of the original report.*

NEW ORLEANS — When he finally made it back to his house, three weeks after the flood he could only watch on TV, Charles de Boisblanc feared for the worst.

He wasn't so much worried that his Lakeview home was ravaged by water that inundated the area after Hurricane Katrina. In fact, he kind of expected that.

De Boisblanc, 39, was instead bracing for the possibility he might find his uncle, who lived even closer to Lake Pontchartrain and resisted evacuating New Orleans as the storm approached in late August.

"I told him I'd leave him a key in the mailbox and he could use the house if it got bad," de Boisblanc said. "I thought we might find him decomposing."

Escorted by a police officer — there was no other way to get into the neighborhood then — de Boisblanc inspected the house, and there was no one to be found. He would find out later his uncle evacuated at the last minute.

But de Boisblanc's relief would be tainted by the fact that 6 feet of water sat in the house for days after the storm, ruining furniture and creating a muddy mess. A tree fell through the roof. What's more, it was like that with every house on the block, and six weeks later, there are but few signs of life in the neighborhood where he grew up.

"Everything that was once familiar is now unfamiliar," he said. "That's the best way I can put it."

And now de Boisblanc



CW/ Elliot Knight

Andrea and Tom Donner, of Mandeville, La., spent Oct. 15 sifting through debris inside of Andrea's parents' home, which is only a block away from the breach in the 17th Street canal levee in New Orleans.

is faced with the choice that plagues so many New Orleanians: return to a home and a city in ruins, or find a new life elsewhere?

About four of every 10 New Orleans residents or households who sought shelter from the Red Cross say they will not move back, a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found.

But for de Boisblanc, leaving the modest home, which his grandfather built in the 1950s, was never an option. He plans to tear it down and rebuild, but it will take a while.

That's evident from walking around the neighborhood, where mud, dead grass, old trash and tree limbs litter every yard and sidewalk.

Cars are everywhere, covered in dried mud and dust, with rusty-orange lines

revealing how the water slowly receded.

But where a first-time visitor sees devastation, de Boisblanc sees progress.

"All this, this whole street, was a canopy" when he first returned three weeks after Katrina, de Boisblanc said, pointing down Colbert Street. And though it stills smell of muck, the putrid odor of "decomposition" is gone now, he said.

De Boisblanc said he considers himself lucky. He still has a job, unlike many of New Orleans' poor, and even not-so-poor doctors and lawyers who have no clientele.

And though a picture of the Virgin Mary hanging over the muck in the living room and his wife's rosary — a family heirloom — may be the only

salvageable items from their home, they had all the necessary insurance coverage.

"We're practicing Catholics," he said. "It's like, 'Whatever you want us to do, Lord. Whatever you want us to do.'"

■ ■ ■

Andrea and Tim Donner have become excavators.

They don knee-high rubber boots, dishwashing gloves and painter's masks, so as not to inhale any of the mold or whatever else might be in the stale air inside the home where Andrea grew up. Like a cave explorer, Andrea even has affixed a small light to her forehead.

They are doing Andrea's 78-year-old parents a favor,


See **KATRINA**, Page 13

See **HURRICANE**, Page 13

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■ MARCH 1, 2006

## Jones never scheduled Venue show

Location of ticket money still a mystery

By BEN FLANAGAN  
Entertainment Editor  
flanagan@cw.ua.edu

Though hundreds of tickets were sold for two shows last semester, Mike Jones never even scheduled a performance at the Venue 1215, the rapper's manager said.

Terrance Flowers of Ice Age Entertainment said Jones "in no way, shape or form" had booked a performance at the bar on the Strip or anywhere in Alabama Sept. 28 or 29.

Flowers, who said he has represented Jones for seven or eight years, said he had no idea Jones was being advertised for the shows until The Crimson White contacted him.

Flowers said Jones could not have been legitimately booked for the shows because he personally handles Jones' scheduling and revenue collection.

In September 2005, Tuscaloosa novelty store Tobacco Depot and restaurant Catfish Heaven sold \$20 tickets for two concerts to be held at the Venue. Managers at both businesses said they turned the proceeds over to Jones' promoters without taking a cut of the money.

The Sept. 28 show was canceled, but the Venue honored those tickets for the next evening's show.

Moments before the rapper was supposed to take the stage Sept. 29, power went out on the Strip and patrons were told to leave and hold on to their ticket stubs.

Venue owner Joel Holliday



Courtesy of whomikejones.com

Mike Jones never scheduled two cancelled September shows, his manager attests.

said he has a written contract between his business and the rap artist to perform. Holliday said he dealt with a man named R.J. Sanders, whom he said he has not been able to contact since the shows were canceled.

Flowers said he has never heard of that person. He said Jones' publicist is looking into the matter.

"Whatever it is, it's not a contract that I issued," Flowers said.

Asked why the Venue is not

suing for breach of contract or fraud, Holliday said his lawyer told him that because the Venue did not lose any money, it has no grounds for legal action.

Flowers said he fears people claiming to be Jones' promoters ran a scam operation.

"There are a lot of promoters out there trying to get over on people," he said.

Tobacco Depot and Catfish Heaven could not have dealt with legitimate promoters for Jones, Flowers said.

"They say they gave it to Mike Jones' promoters, but I work alone," Flowers said.

A representative of Catfish Heaven could not be reached for comment this week.

George Gibbons, manager of the Tobacco Depot and a senior majoring in management, said he does not know the name of the company or individuals he turned the ticket money over to. He said Tobacco Depot sold tickets only to have the store's name advertised on the show's fliers and did not receive any cut of

the money.

"I can't remember the dude's name now," Gibbons said. "I believe I talked to one guy over the phone. One guy came in person. He just asked for a location to sell tickets. The day of the concert, he came and picked up the money and extra tickets and took off."

Gibbons said he himself bought five tickets for \$100 and has not attempted to get his money back.

"It sucks, but we went out and had a great time anyway," he said.

### Since it ran:

Jones' manager at Ice Age Entertainment, Terrance Flowers, maintains that neither he nor Jones ever knew of the Tuscaloosa show. Flowers said Ice Age's publicist was looking into the matter, but no new information has been found at this point. There still have not been any refunds for those who purchased tickets for the event.

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■ **AUG. 29, 2005**

# Some disapprove of Coolio concert

Some students offended by rapper 'being nasty'

By LORI CREEL  
Senior Staff Reporter  
■ creel@cw.ua.edu

Students who crowded the Ferguson Center Plaza Saturday night to watch Coolio perform at this year's Welcome Back Concert had mixed reactions to the night's events.

For the most part though, students were glad to hear some of their old rap favorites and appreciated the opportunity to attend a free concert.

"You got what you paid for," said Chris Reynolds, a freshman majoring in computer science. "No disrespect to Coolio."

Gregory Jackson, a freshman majoring in fitness management, said he would have preferred an "artist who'd done something in the last five years," but said he was glad Coolio did not back out

of doing the concert as rapper Lil' Scrappy had.

Not everyone approved of Coolio's "PG-13" rated show. When he pulled three female volunteers from the audience onstage and began dancing on them, some audience members were shocked. Once they were onstage, Coolio told the women they could not cross their legs, and he and the other performers began grinding on them.

John Thomas, a junior majoring in communications,

said he was surprised at Coolio's actions, but he said the girls seemed like they were enjoying being onstage.

Jackson said Coolio was probably just trying to get everyone in the audience more involved in the performance. He said it was bad — but funny.

Jamie Coston, a junior majoring in political science and dance, said she and her friends left right after Coolio had the three girls come onstage.

"We got fed up with him being nasty with those girls on stage," Coston said.

She said she probably would not have gone to see Lil' Scrappy, but since she remembered Coolio, she went to the concert.

"It was more funny than pure musical entertainment," Coston said. "It was mainly just people dancing around and acting stupid."

Melanie James, a junior majoring in health, said the girls she was with also wanted

to go onstage, but they were relieved they had not gone once they saw what was happening.

"I know it was a rap concert, but they could've done without that," she said.

Even though many said they would have preferred to see Lil' Scrappy, most said University Programs did a good job booking Coolio. Still, students such as James and Coston said they would like to see bigger bands play at the Capstone.



CW/ Charley Parden

Coolio performed at University Programs' Welcome Back Concert in August. He and his posse angered some concertgoers when the rapper, best known for "Gangsta's Paradise," suggestively grinded against some female attendants.

■ **JAN. 20, 2006**

# 'Brokeback Mountain' rides into town

Cobb 16 screened controversial film

By BEN FLANAGAN  
Entertainment Editor  
■ flanagan@cw.ua.edu

FocusFeatures' controversial film "Brokeback Mountain" will finally be screened at the Cobb Hollywood 16 in Tuscaloosa starting today — more than a month after its projected wide release date of Dec. 16.

Before, the film, which explores the relationship between two men, was in only one movie theater in Alabama, the Rave Motion Pictures theater at Vestavia Hills.

Initially, the film was given a limited release in New York, Los Angeles and other large cities and was to spread to more theaters week by week.

Considering the controversy, positive critical buzz surrounding it and the fact that it has been the frontrunner for the Academy Award for Best Picture, one might have thought the film would be granted a wider release sooner.

A Focus Features representative said the film ran into the same problem the studio has had for years, which is a shortage of film prints — even if the movie is as popular as it is.

A Cobb Hollywood 16 representative could not be reached to comment on why the film took so long to reach Tuscaloosa.

There are many students who have been awaiting the film's release, which is one they think the South will not fully embrace.

"Brokeback," which is directed by Academy Award winner Ang Lee, involves two cowboys who fall in love while herding sheep on a mountain range.

"I think in the South, especially the less metropolitan areas, the image of the cowboy is something of a sanctified image," said Chris Hardin, a graduate student in theatre. "So the idea of a 'gay cowboy movie' is automatically laughable, certainly not something to be taken seriously. I think the overwhelmingly conservative socio-political climate of the South only adds to this reaction."

Maury Carlisle, a junior majoring in advertising, said he doesn't want to see the film because he is convinced



Courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal play two characters in "Brokeback Mountain" that fall in love.

it won't be very entertaining. Carlisle also said that the film is a hard to market, especially to men, who would feel insecure watching it without a female date.

"What group of guys is going to see something like that? It's so image-oriented," Carlisle said. "A lot of people are going to go see it for the sake of curiosity."

"Is a guy going to see it on his own? Probably not because of what that might suggest. People need a reason to go see it. All they know about it is that it has homosexual activity."

Stacy Searle, a graduate

student in theatre, said she has been frustrated with the film's tardiness in coming to Tuscaloosa since one of her friends in New York saw it over a month ago and praised it.

"I had a gut instinct I would never be seeing it here in Tuscaloosa even with two well-respected actors [Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal] headlining the film," Searle said. "An average American citizen does not want to believe that gay people are anything but the stereotype Hollywood has set for them. If the gay man on screen is not commenting on how fabulous someone's purse

is and making witty, flaming comments on the hot ass that just passed by, then we don't want anything to do with it."

### Since it ran ...

Ang Lee took the Oscar for Best Director for "Brokeback," but the film lost Best Picture to the racism ensemble piece "Crash."

Check [www.cw.ua.edu](http://www.cw.ua.edu) for updates throughout the interim.

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# INbrief

from staff reports ...

■ Oct. 14, 2005

## Collective Soul, BTE play Homecoming

Collective Soul and Better Than Ezra will play this year's Homecoming Concert Oct. 28, University Programs President John Griffin said Thursday.

Better Than Ezra, who played a Welcome Back concert two years ago, will open for Collective Soul on the Quad after the pep rally and bonfire that Friday night before the Crimson Tide's football game against Utah State.

Griffin said he could not confirm the acts until now because of contract negotiations.

"Some of these contracts are 40 and 50 pages long," Griffin said. "We've been working on this since early June."

Griffin said UP was close to booking two other high-profile acts for the headlining job. O.A.R. was available and was the first choice, but the band backed out to work on a studio album instead.

O.A.R. ranked eighth on a list of student choices for the Homecoming show. UP conducted a poll of students online during the end of the spring semester and summer months. More than 2,000 students participated, Griffin said.

UP then pursued Gavin DeGraw, who ranked 13th in the poll, but he was not available, Griffin said.

■ Sept. 14, 2005

## Creative Campus kicks off

Creative Campus held its kickoff campaign meeting Sept. 13 in the Crimson Nights room in Mary Burke Hall.

Creative Campus is a new joint student-administrative organization with an objective to put an emphasis and spotlight on arts and cultural opportunities in Tuscaloosa, especially on the UA campus.

Dozens of UA students gathered for just over an hour for the group's introduction and orientation, which featured a brief video, a speech and live performances by three student artists.

Erica Crabtree, a senior majoring in communication studies and a Creative Campus intern, put an emphasis on the group's mission, which is to broaden the community's knowledge of arts and culture in town through "collaboration, cohesion and connectivity."

■ OCT. 13, 2005

# Sex hair and the 'Strut of Infamy'

After a night of scandalous dancing and partying at a local bar, you find yourself inebriated and falling into the arms of a beautiful man (or woman). However, waking up to this species of sorts the next day reminds you why some people take a plunge at sobriety.

Bright, garish light hits your face and, as a brick of nausea smacks you awake, you take notice of your surroundings.

"Star Wars" collector action figures, a Hulk Hogan poster, various anime posters and a scantily clad Brooke Burke winking in your direction on the wall are only a few of the novelty items you glance at. A mixture of stale beer breath and cigarette smoke curdles the air around you. Your cell phone rings, and you still have not peeped at the dude in bed next to you. It's your ex calling you. Click deny, click deny.

Damn. You must have broken the first rule of ex-dom. Do not under any circumstances pick up your cell and attempt the cruel and pathetic

maneuver that is the drunk dial.

As you search your call log, you realize that last night you called the ex a mere 13 times. Embarrassment lodges deep within your throat.

Jackhammer pain erodes your brain as you finally turn to look at the drunken dude from last night. It's ... it's — one of your best guy friends.

No — but yes at the same time. He wasn't half bad, as a grin of mischief spreads across your lips. He wakes up with a groan, and you collect your things. After a glance in the mirror you furiously rub your cheek to remove all traces of illicit sex from the night before, but alas to no avail.

The black crust of mascara still remains along with the horrific mess that is your hair. Ladies, sex hair is the worst. It looks as if Chewbacca jumped on top of your head and chewed bits of it. This matted concoction cannot be reproduced, for it is a byproduct of wild, drunken sex.

In this state of awkward



Come with Me

Liz Stierwalt

stierwalt@cw.ua.edu

hurriedness, you remember to kiss [insert dude's name here] goodbye and march your stilettoed butt out of there.

After scoping out the parking lot for recognizable faces, you tilt your head down and run to your car. The heat of bitter shame and nastiness ripples through you as you trot. This detailed narration equates the monster known as the walk of shame.

We all have been here. The best walk of shame story that I have ever heard comes from one of my closest friends.

She was a student at Illinois-Wesleyan about two years ago, and for Halloween that year, she decided to don the ever-so-popular school-girl uniform.

She pranced and flitted around in this hot outfit at an upstanding fraternity party. After keg beer galore she stumbled up the stairs to El Presidente's room for ample sex.

The next morning, she had to truck it across the entire campus to her dorm wearing this plaid skirt concoction for the whole school to see. Worse, the encounter took place on a Thursday night, so there were plenty of people walking to class at the same time she made the Walk of Shame.

I still smirk whenever I think of her. Why can't women be a little more prepared for the action that is to come after a night of debauchery?

We should seriously pack a bag of essentials such as a toothbrush, face wash and an extra pair of panties in our trunk. Hmm. I guess that

might be a little weird, though. It would probably be a tad bit strange if a dude woke up the next morning to find his hottie hookup in his bathroom with grooming essentials strewn atop the counter.

Oh well. I say forgo all of that and just lift that head up high after a scandalous night because the only people that will judge your walk of shame are the type that desperately need a raucous romp.

I say to hell with the feelings of embarrassment after this infamous walk. Why should there be this overbearing conception that we have to feel ashamed after hooking up and strolling back to our respective vehicles? It's all propaganda, I say.

From this day forward, I declare this long tradition among college students to be renamed the strut of infamy. Yeah, I went there.

Strutters unite.

*Liz Stierwalt is a senior majoring in English. Her column return this fall on Thursdays in The Scene.*

## KATRINA

Continued from Page 10

Andrea said, by sifting through the mud and downed furniture, looking for anything that might be salvageable from the mess in her parents' Lakeview home.

Rummaging through the filth is tedious work for a Saturday. The mud creates an inches-thick lining through which the Donners slish and trudge. Furniture is strewn about and covered in muck.

In the kitchen, the refrigerator sits on its back, with the door facing up. Asked if they had begun to clean it out, the Donners could only laugh with embarrassment.

"We're not going there," Andrea said.

Darris Dorsey, 39, is not nostalgic or sad — he's ready to get the hell out of New Orleans.

"My life is destroyed, just destroyed," he said after taking

a break from loading a U-Haul truck. Dorsey, a welder and fitter, lived in New Orleans, where a different levee breach inundated the area.

His apartment was completely ruined by the floodwaters, Dorsey said.

To prove his point, he ventured into the truck and, upon returning, brandished a clear bag of loose change.

"This is all I got from there," he said. "This is it."

It's hard to think life will ever be back to normal in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, despite a "We will rebuild" sign that greets the few motorists entering the area on St. Claude Avenue. It is one of the city's poorest areas, and with a breach in the Industrial Canal levee, water filled most houses to the rooftops.

Charles Zeno, 57, was anxious Saturday evening as he waited for an escort to take him into that neighborhood to see his

house for the first time. Katrina chased him and his sister into Louisiana and eventually to Houston. Zeno, who works as a paper shredder, has wanted to come back for weeks, but Hurricane Rita kept him away longer.

Asked why he would return to the city, knowing another hurricane could come anytime, Zeno looked as though he never thought about it before.

"This is home for me," he said.

## HURRICANE

Continued from Page 1

clock" helping the Red Cross shelter however they can.

She said the shelter will not shut down any time soon.

The Rec shelter began with 300 people during the storm, she said, but that number had reached more than 500 on Sept. 2, and the center was still taking people in.

## Capstone opens doors to students

Dozens of students, some coming with only the shirt on their backs and one pair of jeans, made their way to the University after losing everything to the fury of Katrina.

Jacqueline Morgan, assistant director of admissions for alumni and volunteer recruitment, said her office has set up a checklist to streamline the admissions process and get students into classes as quickly as possible.

Tuition payments have been deferred at least until mid-semester 2005 so students can find a place to live on campus and get an ACTION card and a campus-wide ID number, she said.

Morgan said about 40 students are "seriously" interested in the University or have already been admitted. She said she has also taken phone calls from several others who are interested in the University.

Leah Grodnick and Catherine Bell, temporary UA students, had to evacuate only one day after they had moved to Tulane.

Grodnick said they left everything in New Orleans because they thought they'd be back in a couple of days. But they only received their things two weeks ago, she said.

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# INbrief

from staff reports ...

### Guerilla Theatre has standout year

Alpha Psi Omega's many Guerilla Theatre performances in various venues sparked a large interest on campus throughout the '05-'06 school year.

Performances at Allen Bales Theatre, Morgan Auditorium, the front steps of Marian Galloway Theatre and the back parking lot of Rowand-Johnson Hall highlighted the troupe's highly attended shows.  
UA students, among many others, often sold out the performances leaving many

patrons closed off from the shows. This resulted in APO requesting larger venues, such as Morgan and block party formats.  
For their "24-hour Holiday Spectacular," APO organized two separate shows within the span of a day to perform two times — one naughty show, and one nice.  
APO president Stephen Tyler Davis, who (along

with co-hort Tasia Munoz) has led the student organization to their success on campus, said he has been pleased with the larger venues allowing his troupe to occupy the necessary space.  
"We were able to fill Morgan up on our first try," said Davis, a junior majoring in theater. "It makes perfect sense to have

more space. The campus is becoming more appreciative and demanding more. The last thing we want to do is turn people away."  
The final Guerilla Theatre performance will be on Saturday in the Bama Theatre in downtown Tuscaloosa at 11 p.m. Doors open at 10:30 p.m. A \$1 donation is appreciated.

## The CW returns June 8.

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- Getaway
- Deities
- Paid sportsman
- South African city
- Spread open
- Quantity
- Kentucky race
- Cocktail garnish
- Leftover
- Bovine's chew
- Go with
- Fight sites
- Inside info
- Small deer
- Class talk
- Reflexive pronoun
- Get the point
- Hang about
- Echo
- Word with big or bad
- Floor covering
- Smart-alecky
- Tykes
- Sweller
- Cyber-auction site
- Pennies
- Makes lace
- Tubular pasta
- Spain and Portugal together
- Wild ducks
- Throughout
- Pub order
- Woven net
- Test papers
- Down
- Dutch cheese
- National sport of Japan
- Sound like a rooster
- Plentiful
- Moving camera shot
- Key PC key
- Dress to the nines
- A single time
- Dryly witty
- Drunkard
- Sycamores
- Lease figure
- Bookie figures
- Alpaca relative
- As easy as —
- Shoulder decoration
- Affect strongly
- Taco dip
- Pussyfoot
- 29 Container
- Homer
- Simpson's exclamation
- Soft drinks
- Robust
- No-seats- available letters
- "... the land of..."
- Serving of corn
- Splashes with liquid
- Supply with
- Devoted
- Acquired
- Conductor's music
- Whispered word
- Jane Austen heroine
- Jezebel's idol
- Brings to closure
- Piece of Puccini
- Wee
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- Hit head-on
- Clear tables

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■ JAN. 11, 2006

## Tide goes out with bang in Cotton Bowl

Alabama returns to national spotlight with first 10-win season since '02

By MATT SCALICI  
Sports Editor  
scalici@cw.ua.edu

For Crimson Tide senior Anthony Madison, the journey at Alabama has not gone exactly as planned.

The fifth-year senior came to Alabama, along with the rest of his class, with hopes of championships and dreams of glory. While taking a redshirt his freshman season in 2001, Madison watched new head coach Dennis Franchione lead the Tide to a respectable 7-5 season that included a 31-7 trouncing of Auburn.

Three years later, Madison found himself entering his senior season with the Tide with his third head coach, having never been to a bowl game and — worse — having never beaten Auburn.

Though Madison wanted something better for his senior season, he was satisfied with how the year turned out.

"To have a 10-win season; that speaks volumes," Madison said of the Tide's 10-2 campaign, which included a thrilling win in the Cotton Bowl over Texas Tech on Jan. 2. "Having the chance to go out on probably my best game of my career — to end it on that note — is amazing. It's a blessing."

Madison's enthusiasm following the Cotton Bowl victory was a marked difference



Alabama's Jamie Christensen is lifted up by teammates after kicking the game-winning field goal in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 2.

from the somber demeanor of the Tide following their embarrassing loss to Auburn.

Such variety seems to have defined Alabama's 2005 season, which saw extreme highs and extreme lows.

The high marks included the Tide's nine-game winning streak that included a colossal 31-3 home victory over fifth-ranked Florida, a brief reign as the third-ranked team in the nation behind Southern California and Texas, two game-winning field goals by placekicker Jamie Christensen

and a cathartic victory over hated rival Tennessee.

There were also classic moments along the way, including a jubilant touchdown for defensive tackle Rudy Griffin, a miraculous forced fumble in the Tennessee game by safety Roman Harper and, most notably, Tyrone Prothro's acrobatic catch against Southern Mississippi, surely one of the most impressive in NCAA history.

But then there were the low marks. It started with Prothro's season-ending injury, which

tempered the Tide's trouncing of Florida. Center J.B. Closner, a team leader, also went down with a season-ending injury. There was also the heart-breaking home loss in overtime to LSU and nothing worse than the crushing Iron Bowl defeat the next week in Auburn.

Entering the Cotton Bowl, it was still up for debate whether the Tide could claim to have had a good season because it ended in such a breakdown.

But in the minds of the players and coaches, the victory in

Dallas ended that debate.

"We went 10-2 and finished ranked in the top 10," said senior quarterback Brodie Croyle, who graced the cover of Sports Illustrated the week after defeating Florida under the headline "Bama's Back."

"We came into the Cotton

Bowl as underdogs and somehow upset them. It's been a fun ride. When we were all freshmen we went 10-3, and to go out 10-2 makes everything in between worth the while."

See **BOWL**, Page 17



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■ NOV. 11, 2005

# No. 4 not forgotten

Many support injured Prothro with tributes

By JESSIE PATTERSON  
Deputy Sports Editor  
jpatterson@cw.ua.edu

Tyrone Prothro, Alabama's injured junior wide receiver, has been out of action since breaking his left leg against Florida — but he has not been far from the thoughts of many Alabama students and fans.

That's because of all the tributes that have called attention to the spark plug that led the Crimson Tide in all-purpose yards, with an average of 128.2 a game, before his injury.

Some Alabama football players have taken to writing "4" — Prothro's jersey number — on their taped ankles or wrists. Students and fans alike have been sporting stickers bearing his number. Others have gotten hats and shirts with his number emblazoned on them, sophomore split end D.J. Hall said.

"We do everything we can to let him know he is still a part of this team," Hall said. "If it wasn't for him, we probably

wouldn't be in certain situations we are in now."

Hall, one of Prothro's fellow receivers, wore his injured

## Since it ran...

Prothro's spectacular catch against Southern Miss was voted the Pontiac Game Changing Performance of the Year, which earned a \$100,000 donation to the University's general scholarship fund.

Prothro underwent surgery on Feb. 21 to insert an intramedullary rod into his injured leg. He continues to rehabilitate his leg and has said he is optimistic about returning to play for the Tide.

Prothro made headlines again when he finished fourth in the race for SGA president in the spring elections.

teammate's practice jersey in practice sessions the first week he was gone.

"He was a big part of this team, and we're just keeping

him in our prayers every day," Hall said.

Before breaking his leg while trying to catch a pass in the end zone against Florida, Prothro had 17 catches for 325 yards and three touchdowns in the first five games of the season. He was hospitalized after the game and remained in the hospital recovering from surgery until Oct. 26.

Fans in Bryant-Denny Stadium were on their feet cheering when the pregame video began 35 minutes before kickoff. The video showed the footage of Prothro reaching around a Southern Miss defensive back, catching the ball and somersaulting to the 1-yard line while the word "heart" flashed across the Jumbotron.

The noise from fans had football players looking to see what the cause was.

"We definitely noticed the video," Hall said. "First of all, the crowd got excited and it made us look up, and when we did, it was him catching the ball."

Athletic department video coordinator Don Rosen said that adding the footage of



CW/ Elliot A. Knight

Tyrone Prothro salutes the crowd as he is carried off the field after breaking his life in the Florida game.

Prothro's now famous catch was a decision that had been made before he broke his leg attempting to catch a pass in the end zone against Florida.

"We had planned on adding it," Rosen said. "It was just a matter of time to redo it and re-edit it and get it to the Jumbotron people."

The amount of time it took to change the video and switch it at Bryant-Denny

Stadium caused the addition not to appear until the Tennessee game, three weeks after Prothro was injured. It was the Tide's first home game since playing Southern Miss.

"We didn't add that as an honor to him specifically," Rosen said. "It was a great play and a great moment for Alabama football. This wasn't saying we needed to do something for Tyrone, but us trying

to update the film."

Rosen said that the timing was just coincidental.

"We would have added it whether he got hurt or not," he said. "Obviously the crowd reacted well to it, and I think they appreciated the great play it was. With him being injured, I'm sure it added something to that. Everyone knows he is a great player and a good kid."

■ MARCH 29, 2006

# The Tide shot down by Bruins

Falling short of Sweet 16, Tide ends better-than-expected season

By MATT SCALICI  
Sports Editor  
mscalici@cw.ua.edu

SAN DIEGO — After a night-long battle with UCLA, a No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament, the Alabama Crimson Tide's hopes for a Sweet 16 bid came down to one final shot.

With 16 seconds remaining and the Bruins leading by two, the Tide decided to go to the man who had come through in the clutch so many times this season: sophomore point guard Ronald Steele.

"At the timeout when I said what we were going to do, everybody in the huddle felt like we would win the game," Tide head coach Mark Gottfried said. "We've seen it so many times."

Steele's shot hit just off the front iron and bounced into the hands of UCLA's Cedric Bozeman, who then sunk a free throw to seal the win for the Bruins.

"It felt good when it left my hand," Steele said. "It just came up a little short."

Steele's miss may have been a disappointing finish, but Gottfried and the Tide are far from disappointed by their efforts in the 2005-06 season, considering the team lost

leading scorer Chuck Davis for the season during the conference opener against Ole Miss.

"We're disappointed," Gottfried said, "but I couldn't be prouder of a basketball team than I am right now. We were 7-6 and lost our best player, and today we're a jump shot away from the Sweet 16. And I wouldn't do anything different."

The Tide's second-round meeting with No. 2 seed and Final Four contender UCLA surprised many by taking the highly rated Bruins down to the wire and showing the Tide belonged in the tournament.

"I'm proud of my teammates. I'm proud of everybody," Steele said. "We fought hard. We never gave up on each other."

Steele led all scorers with 21 points but managed to sink just two from beyond the 3-point arc.

The Tide struggled with 3-point shooting all night, hitting on just two of 11 attempts. Senior forward Jean Felix, who set a school record for 3-pointers in an NCAA Tournament game with eight against Marquette, was blanked from behind the arc, going zero for four and finishing the night with five points.

The Tide's perimeter offense was frustrated thanks to some superb defensive play by Bruin guards Jordan Farmar and Arron Afflalo, who shut down Felix and Steele in addition to

contributing 31 of the Bruins' 62 points.

And when the time came to charge someone with the task of defending Steele's potentially game-winning shot, UCLA head coach Ben Howland had no doubts.

"I will take my chances with Arron Afflalo guarding the ball against anybody in the country," Howland said.

With the perimeter closed off, the Tide had to earn most of its points from the paint, getting 12 points each from forwards Jermareo Davidson and Richard Hendrix. The duo, along with senior forward Evan Brock, pulled in 19 of the Tide's 30 rebounds, beating the Bruins on the boards by nine.

The Tide was forced to play much of the second half without Davidson after the big man picked up his fourth foul with 9:34 remaining in the game.

"It hurt, there's no question," Gottfried said. "We're a team that needs to avoid foul trouble — especially with our key players. It hurt our ability to score, and Jermareo was playing terrific offensively. That was a big factor in the game."

Despite their disappointment, the Tide players and coaches said they were proud of what they achieved this season and expect to go further next season.

"We want to get to a Final Four and win a national championship for the program,"

Hendrix said. "We're going to keep working until we do that."

## Since it ran...

Davidson delighted Tide fans by announcing he would return to Alabama for his senior season, setting the stage for a highly anticipated run in the 2006-07 season.

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■ APRIL 24, 2006

# Tide takes third, Miles wins vault title at NAAs

Tide senior second in NCAA to win three titles in same event, first in Alabama history

By MATT SCALICI  
Sports Editor  
mscalici@cw.ua.edu

The Alabama gymnastics team finished third at the NCAA Championships with a 196.725 in Corvallis, Ore., on April 21, marking its 17th top-three national finish.

Georgia won its second championship in a row with a 197.75, followed by Utah's 196.800. The Tide finished only .075 behind the Utes despite counting a fall on its last event, the balance beam.

Alabama went into the last rotation only .025 behind Georgia, but even before the Tide's falls, the Dogs' 49.65 on the vault put the championship out of reach.

"We win as a team," Alabama head coach Sarah Patterson said. "One thing I wanted to impress on the ladies is that our falls on balance beam didn't cost us a championship."

"I am very proud of the way our ladies went out there and were outstanding through the first three events and really kept the pressure on. I told them, 'Make them be great, and they did that.'"

The Tide got off to a strong start early on the floor exercise, scoring a 49.375 from senior Ashley Miles' 9.95, freshman Melanie Banville's 9.9 and freshman Brittany Magee's 9.875. Freshman Ashley O'Neal got the Tide's night started with a career-best 9.85 in the lead-off spot. Junior Erin Rightley rounded out the scoring with a 9.8.

Alabama looked even stronger on its second rotation,



CW/ Elliot A. Knight

Freshman Cassie Martin performs her routine on the floor against Florida on Jan. 22.

scoring a 49.400 on the vault with 9.9s from Banville and Magee and a huge 9.95 from Miles. Senior Dana Filetti posted 9.85 while Humphrey posted a 9.8.

Magee started Alabama off on the balance beam with a 9.85, followed by Banville, who notched a 9.825.

Miles scored a season-best 9.9 to lead the Tide in the third spot. Miles' routine was followed by back-to-back falls by Rightley and senior Mari Bayer. Humphrey picked the Tide back up with a 9.85 to close out the event.

Despite the disappointing finish in the team championships, the Tide was able to celebrate an individual national title for Miles, who claimed her fourth individual NCAA title of her career and her third on the vault.

She is the second gymnast in NCAA history, and first in more than 20 years, to win three national vault titles in a career, joining Utah's Elaine Alfano, who won the titles in 1982, '83 and '85. Miles is the sixth gymnast in NCAA history to win the same event three times in a career.

In event finals competition, gymnasts are required to do

two different vaults, and the scores from those are averaged together for the final score. Miles scored a 9.975 on her first vault and came back with a 9.9 on her second for a 9.9375 average. She outscored a pair of UCLA gymnasts for the title, beating Kristina Comforte and Kate Richardson.

Miles is tied for third in total number of career titles with four, joining, among others, Alabama's Penney Hauschild. She also pushes Alabama's all-time individual NCAA Championship total to 19. Winning one in every year since Andree Pickens' 2002 uneven bars title, Alabama has won at least one individual NCAA title in each of the last five years, the longest active streak in the nation.

Miles also impressed on the floor exercise, scoring a 9.9125 and taking third place in the event. UCLA's Richardson won the floor exercise with a 9.950.

Also competing in event finals, Humphrey took fourth in the balance beam, scoring a 9.825.

Alabama took third in last night's NCAA Super Six Team Finals, giving the Tide an NCAA-best 21 final four national finishes.

## BOWL

Continued from Page 15

Head coach Mike Shula entered the year under enormous pressure to return Alabama's program to the national title competitor it once was. With a 10-win season that included a momentous New Year's Day bowl win, many think Shula now has the team headed in the right direction.

"I think it gives us some momentum for the off-season, hopefully some momentum recruiting-wise," said Shula, who will head into the offseason with a winning record for the first time in his career at Alabama.

"You get confidence with wins, and you get confidence with experience. We played in a bowl game, and we won a bowl game in January. That's got to make our guys coming back next year feel confident about what lies ahead."

Shula sees the team's progress in 2005 as even more of an accomplishment considering the Tide's NCAA setbacks and

coaching changes.

"The last few years, these guys have been through some tough times," Shula said. "They were looking at me coming in from the NFL as their third head coach in less than a year. We played some tough games and had some real tough losses. Last year was tough, too; we had a lot of injuries, but they all continued to stick with it."

Shula thinks the 2005 senior class' ability to deal with adversity will inspire both the returning players and anyone who followed them throughout their tumultuous journey at the Capstone.

"When you go through tough times together, you find out a lot about each other," he said. "There's a lot of different ways you can go, and this team chose to pull together."

## Since it ran...

The Tide capped off one of the best recruiting classes in the nation with a highly-publicized commitment from prospect Andre Smith. Spring practice saw the emergence of new leaders on both sides of the ball as well as a crowd of almost 40,000 turning out to watch the annual A-Day scrimmage.

Five members of the Tide's 2006 senior class were selected in the NFL Draft including linebacker DeMeco Ryans, picked in the second round by the Houston Texans, and quarterback Brodie Croyle, who was drafted by Kansas City Chiefs in the third round.

Also drafted were safeties Roman Harper and Charlie Peprah and defensive end Mark Anderson.

On Wednesday, the University approved a new contract for Shula, guaranteeing the coach \$1.55 million annually through the 2011 football season. The new contract makes Shula the fifth-highest paid coach in the SEC.

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