

The Crimson White



The Watchman says
farewell

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Film showcase brings
attention to student works

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Softball makes history
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Capstone sees 17 student deaths this year

Total number cannot be compared to previous years' student deaths

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

Seventeen students died during the 2006-07 academic year according to a document released by UA Media Relations Friday.

Cathy Andreen, UA spokeswoman, said she could confirm the causes of the deaths of most of the students since the fall semester began.

The Crimson White reported 11 of the deaths shortly after

they occurred but did not report the deaths of the six other students.

Alan Moore, a pre-business major from Decatur, was diagnosed with viral meningitis over winter break, Andreen said. He died Jan. 8.

"He wasn't at school when he died," she said. "So there wasn't any risks of it spreading, like there usually is on campuses when these sorts of things happen."

Roanishice McCray, a human development and family studies major from Docena, died from leukemia Oct. 3.

Kia Robinson, a computer science major from Tuscaloosa, died from cancer Sept. 4.

Timothy Baites, a religious

studies major from Hoover, died Nov. 4.

Latoya Glover, a graduate student in social work, died March 27.

Montré Walker, a communication studies major from Hayneville, died Dec. 16. Andreen said the University could not confirm the cause of death for any of these students.

On Dec. 21, the Selma Times-Journal reported Walker was killed in an accidental shooting when a friend was showing off his gun. This report was confirmed by several other state newspapers that reported the same incident shortly after Walker's death.

The other students who died

this academic year are: Zachary Moore, a pre-business major from Fairhope; Lauren Harris, a communicative disorders major from Dothan; Matthew Harris, a consumer sciences major from Dothan; Justin Clark, an industrial engineering major from Toxey; Crystal Harris, a doctoral student in musical arts from Atlanta; Brent Ullom, a graduate student in German from Madison; Peter Duke, an English major from Athens; Melanie Musala, a nursing major from Fiskhill, N.Y.; Brandy Murphy, an athletic training major from Florence; Conrad Hollis, a pre-criminal justice major from Columbus, Miss.; and James Echols, an art major from Vestavia.

Student deaths in the last year

In the 2006-07 academic year, 17 students died.

Car Accidents: 3	Unknown: 4
Illness: 7	Other: 1
Weapons: 2	

Source: UA Media Relations

Andreen said while 17 students seems like a large number, she could not be sure if it was unusually high compared to past years.

Tom Strong, associate vice president for Student Affairs, said the University does not record or store data from year to year concerning student

deaths, though he said certain types of deaths appear to be occurring more frequently.

"Without doing a study, it seems that we have had a number of cancer deaths among students that we have not had in the past," he said. "Of course, we have more students and that makes a difference."

STATE NEWS

State ranks low in women's pay

Alabama ranks as one of the worst in country

By JESSICA ALEXANDER
Senior Staff Reporter

A recent study conducted by the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation said a college-educated woman in the state makes 69 percent of the salary of a college-educated man, ranking Alabama as the 46th worst state when it comes to equal pay for women.

While women's overall levels of education and participation in the paid labor force have increased, the report, released on April 16, found women remained segregated in lower-paying occupations.

"We shouldn't decide how to pay someone based on whether they have an X or Y chromosome," said Mark Upton, a sophomore with an undecided major. "It should be equal pay for equal work. It isn't a feminist idea, it's the right idea."

Before the education amendments of 1972, schools could set quotas for the number of women admitted or refuse women's admission altogether. After its enactment, college

attendance grew for both women and men, but women made more rapid gains. According to the U.S. Department of Education, by 2003, 51 percent of young women had attended or graduated from some kind of college, compared to 41 percent of men.

Among those working full-time one year after graduation, women as a group had slightly higher grade point averages — 3.16 on a 4.0 scale, while men averaged a 3.04.

Though the study shows more women are attending college and graduating with higher GPAs, they are still lagging behind their male counterparts on the payroll.

"That is discouraging

See **PAY**, Page 2

By the numbers education of the sexes

51%	Women who have attended or graduated from college
41%	Men that who attended or graduated from college
3.16	Average woman's GPA
3.04	Average man's GPA



CW/ Alex Gilbert

Construction on Seventh Avenue stops traffic between the Ferguson Center and Riverside. Students can expect more changes during the fall semester.

Changing direction

Construction, parking changes will change the campus for next fall

By AMANDA PETERSON AND JAMES JAILLET
The Crimson White

Shiny new buses will shuttle students around campus

next fall, but to make sure the system runs smoothly, the roads around the Quad will be closed to traffic.

According to the transit system Web site, crimsonride.ua.edu, the shuttle system will have four routes — North, East, South and Core — with each route cycling through the transit hub at the Campus Drive parking deck. At the hub, students

will be able to swap buses to get on one for a different route.

Each bus will complete its route in about five minutes, and the route circling the outer edge of campus will take about 20 minutes.

Brian Carter, a senior majoring in aerospace engineering, said the campus is not as big as others in the region that use a transit system, which,

in part, helps make transit systems successful.

"It works at big universities like Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, because they are so big," Carter said. "I don't know how it will work out here because we're just not as big as those campuses. It can work if they run it right, but I guess we'll

See **CHANGES**, Page 5

TCF student auditions for season 20 of 'Real World'

By PHIL OWEN
Assistant Entertainment Editor
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The name Fletcher Tubbs probably means nothing to most people. He is just one of many juniors majoring in telecommunication and film.

But soon, things will be different. Today, Tubbs will begin to be featured on the newly created "Real World" Web site set up to showcase the finalists for the cast of the 20th season of the pioneering reality TV show.

Tubbs, a self-described "all-American guy" who does not enjoy going to a lot of parties, said he decided to send in

an audition tape in large part because of a blurb on the show's casting Web site that indicated MTV was looking to make a change from its more traditional cast of partiers and ramblerousers.

The blurb, which can be found on MTV.com, said, "For Real World's upcoming 20th season, we are searching for cast members with career and life goals that they want to pursue while on the show."

Tubbs, who is from Sumiton, said he was excited by the Web site's explanation



Fletcher Tubbs

of the new season.

"And I thought, 'Why not do this for fun? I've never really done anything crazy in my life,'" Tubbs said.

When Tubbs did send in his tape, he kept it a secret, telling only his sister and best friend because,

he said, "I don't want my friends making fun of me."

Two months later, Tubbs was on the phone with "Real World" casting director Jake Medway, who was asking him for information to be put in a mySpace-like profile on a new casting site.

The site, which goes live

today at an undetermined time, according to Tubbs, will feature the profiles of all the finalists, and the public will be able to vote once per day per computer for whom they want to make it onto the show. Those with the highest vote tallies will move on to a final casting session, where the show's producers will make the final decision on who will join the cast.

Tubbs plans on using a grassroots campaign to help promote himself, utilizing every possible asset.

"I've contacted every Birmingham television station, the Birmingham newspaper, and I even called a couple Huntsville television

stations [and] Mobile television stations," he said.

Tubbs also contacted the award-winning Birmingham radio news anchor Laurie Mundy, who he said would promote his "Real World" candidacy on Clear Channel stations throughout the state. But that is not all she is doing to help, he said.

"The thing is, she had a contact she gave my information to," he said. "It's the [person] that's a head of the Soul Patrol."

The Soul Patrol is a group formed in 2006 to help promote "American Idol" contestant Taylor Hicks.

"She promised me that they would get me 10,000 votes

Because of what he is doing to promote himself, Tubbs thinks he has a good chance of making it onto the show. But if he does make it, the experience won't be all about fun and games.

"When I get on the show, yeah, I'm going to have fun

See **REAL**, Page 3

IN CAMPUS brief

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last CW of the semester published today

This is the last regular edition of The Crimson White this year. We will not print on Thursday, but check newsstands on Friday for our annual Year in Review edition.

The Crimson White will be printed once a week during the summer sessions, starting June 7.

Ferg closing this weekend

The Ferguson Center will be closed for mandatory HVAC maintenance Friday through Sunday. The building will close at 5 p.m. Friday and will reopen Monday at 7 a.m. On Saturday, the University Supply Store's Tutwiler location will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for book buybacks.

Friday is last day for yearbook pictures

This week is the last chance for students to have their photos taken for the Corolla yearbook. Photographers will be taking photos today at the Office of Student Media starting at 4:30 p.m.; tomorrow from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Ferguson Plaza and 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Denny Chimes; and Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. by the Ferguson Theater. Any student who misses these dates can also come to the Corolla office in the Student Media building. Call 348-6076 for any additional information about photos or about purchasing a yearbook.

Award money provides TPD more info

It has been almost two months since Gov. Bob Riley has offered award money to anyone who has any information that leads to an arrest in the homicide investigation of Conrad Hollis, a UA student, and still no arrests have been made. However, Tuscaloosa Police Department Chief Ken Swindle said since the offer of award money, the TPD has received additional information regarding the case they are actively following up on.

"Since the award money was made known, we have received additional phone calls providing new information," Swindle said. "This is an active case that we have been working on every day."

Hollis, a UA freshman and a former soldier, was shot and killed on Oct. 28 after a minor car accident occurred on University Boulevard. The TPD sent video images to a FBI lab in Quantico, Va., for digital enhancement. The images revealed the suspect's car could be a 1995 to 1999 Chevrolet Cavalier Coupe, and new leads might tie the car to Madison County.

Since then, the TPD has not had any additional information or leads about the suspect's car, he said.

"We are really proud of our officers," Swindle said. "They have been working really hard to make sure that Hollis' case gets solved. Our hearts go out to the Hollis family."

Hollis' murder was the last murder to occur in Tuscaloosa, Swindle said. He said he thinks this might be because the community is becoming more aware of crime and is becoming more actively involved to help reduce it.

If anyone has any information regarding the case, they are urged to call the TPD at 349-2121, Swindle said.

— *Christy Conner*

WRC to offer class on counseling

Classes can be taken individually or as a departmental group

By **BRETT BRALLEY**
Senior Staff Reporter

The UA Women's Resource Center is now offering registration for Harbor Training sessions for the summer for faculty and staff members.

The sessions are designed to educate faculty and staff members on how to best serve victims of violence, said Marti McCaleb, a staff member of the WRC.

McCaleb said the program has been running for two years and was inspired by a Safe Zone campaign to create a "safe harbor" for victims of violence. McCaleb said she hopes the summer sessions will help create a bigger network of support by the time new students arrive in the fall.

"Harbor Training provides [faculty and staff members] with an overview of steps to give services if a student has a problem," she said.

McCaleb said there are two types of sessions. One is an

individual session that can be scheduled through Human Resources, which is offered the first Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m.

The other type of session is set up so an entire department on campus can participate at once. Sessions last 90 minutes, she said.

McCaleb said those who have participated receive a placard to display in their offices so those in need of help will know that they can approach those people.

Those who have participated in a Harbor Training session said they think they are prepared to help a student, should the situation arise.

Carol Duncan, administrative assistant to the vice president of Student Affairs, said she participated in a Harbor Training session and was taught ways to recognize some of the behavior that comes from a student who is dealing with trauma but is not comfortable sharing it.

"I think the program benefits the student body because it gives all participants in the program the information we need to refer students with issues to the appropriate

people," she said.

Duncan said she went through the training session to be as knowledgeable as possible to help any students in need of direction.

Sheila Milone, immigrant assistant at Capstone International Services, said the sessions provide a way for students to know they do not have to feel helpless in a violent situation but know there is someone who can direct them to counseling.

"I work in an office at a front desk," she said. "Students are coming in and out and I'm one of the first people they talk with. If there was ever anything wrong, I can now understand how to

deal with it."

Eric McCracken, a sophomore majoring in biology, said he thought the program was a good way to help students.

"Teachers provide a great tool for reaching the students because they are seeing them every day in class and therefore have influence on their lives," he said. "If teachers are trained correctly, I think the program is a step in the right direction."

McCaleb said those interested in participating in summer sessions can make an individual appointment by contacting human resources or her at the WRC at 348-5040 or e-mail wrc@sa.ua.edu for group department sessions.

PAY

Continued from Page 1

considering I'll be in the work force soon," said Rachel Morrison, a junior majoring in social work. "Men and women should receive the exact same pay for the same work. It's unethical to think otherwise."

The study showed that one year out of college women working full time earn only 80 percent as much as their male colleagues. Ten years after graduation, women fall farther behind, earning only 69 percent of what men earn.

Factors that sometimes affect pay include career goal and selectivity of undergraduate and graduate study. According to the study, female students are concentrated in fields associated with lower earnings, such as education, health and psychology.

Male students dominate the higher-paying fields of engineering, mathematics and physical sciences. Women and men who majored in "male-dominated" subjects earn more than those who majored in "female-dominated" or "mixed-gender" fields.

One year out of college, full-time female workers earn less than men in nearly every major, but this gap varies. History is the only major where women make more than men, which accounts for a minuscule portion of graduates.

"Our society is generating the same social problems that it has said were wrong," said Kayla Anthony, a freshman majoring in computer science. "As a consensus, America believes in equality concerning race, gender, religion and many other aspects, yet society continues to do things that perpetuate the cycle of discrimination."

Many activists groups lobby for the improvement of the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The law makes it illegal for employers to discriminate in pay on account of sex. The Paycheck Fairness

Act and the Fair Pay Act are pending in Congress.

The Fair Pay Act eliminates the "gag rule" on wage disclosure, which prohibits employees from punishing employees who discuss their wages with a co-worker. The Paycheck Fairness Act requires that employers affirmatively prove that pay differences between women and men are caused by something other than sex.

"Women must step up with their voice and show that they are not going to accept the unfair treatment of sexes. Companies should be unbiased with their strategies concerning hiring and salary," Anthony said. "I believe that it is the role of both the oppressed and the oppressor to stop the vicious cycle of discrimination in society."



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I wasn't going to take it for granted that we were going to move up, but it's pretty exciting. This is a great day for everybody in our program. It's been a long, long work in progress and a lot of hard work."

— **Patrick Murphy**, head coach of the Alabama softball team, on his team's rise to No. 1 in the national rankings.
See "First ladies," Page 12.

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Midtown brings big-name retailers to town

New development will offer condos, large mix of retailers to T-town

By JAMES JAILLET
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Tuscaloosa's multi-use development, Midtown Village, will not only open its condominiums to residents this fall, but it will host a venue of several well-known retailers.

Circuit City, Barnes & Noble, Chipotle restaurant and Bama Fever have all confirmed rental space with Midtown, spokeswoman Jeca Salas of the Staubach Company said.

Development partner Scott Harrington of Cypress Equities, the branch from Staubach Company building Midtown, said before starting the project his company had been looking at the property for years.

"We wanted the property pretty bad. We clearly felt the location warranted something much different than what was around it and what was in this area," he said. "We had to take advantage of the opportunity."

Alice Maxwell of Advantage Realty in Tuscaloosa said 224 condominium spaces were

available, averaging around \$180,000 per unit. Of the 224, Maxwell said 10 units are still available.

Midtown will also feature stores such as Coldwater Creek, Ulta, Nail Club and outdoor sportswear store Kinnucan's. Panera Bread, Shades and Kirkland's have also confirmed rental. Salas said the total number of retail spaces is unknown but there will be many more to come.

A large portion of funding for the development has come from tax-exempt loans offered by the Gulf Opportunity Zone passed by the U.S. Congress after Hurricane Katrina. Harrington said retailers will open in November and the development's grand opening will be in February.

Mark Roper, a sophomore majoring in business and public relations, said to gain independence from UA support and retain buyers who head to Birmingham to shop, Tuscaloosa needed something like Midtown.

"I say bring it on, bring a Summit-like atmosphere to Tuscaloosa," he said. "Tuscaloosa is in the shadow of a huge shopping area in Birmingham, and it can't compete with the style or the amount of places in Birmingham. [People] are

in Tuscaloosa, and when they want to shop they go to Birmingham. Tuscaloosa needs something like this to break away from the hold Birmingham has on the [the city]."

Camille Wood, a freshman majoring in elementary education, said she thinks Midtown will help the city.

"I think it will help the economy," she said. "With the bigger stores, it should bring more people, and if it doesn't have what someone is looking for they can go across the street to the mall. It should help both places. I think having new restaurants will be good — I'm excited about that. It gets old eating at the same places all the time."

Aaron Brewer, a senior majoring in international business and Spanish, said the University and the city are trying to make a higher class of shopping for the area.

"The University is raising all its prices on everything and trying to raise the price level on everything in the city," he said. "I've lived here, and I'm tired of always having to go to Birmingham to go to a movie or go shopping. It will be nice to finally have a place here to go and hang out. It's in a great location; everyone goes down that road on their way home."



Midtown Village on McFarland Boulevard will open its condos in the fall. Businesses will open in November. CW/ Alex Gilbert

REAL

Continued from Page 1

with it," Tubbs said, "but it's going to be an opportunity to get my name out there and possibly get a job wherever I want after the show."

Tubbs said his ultimate goal would be to be a reporter either for Fox News

or CNN.

"I know they're totally different, but they're global," he said.

Tubbs will create a Facebook group that will feature a link to his "Real World" profile. As of press time, MTV had not released the URL of the new casting Web site, but a link will be posted today on MTV.com.

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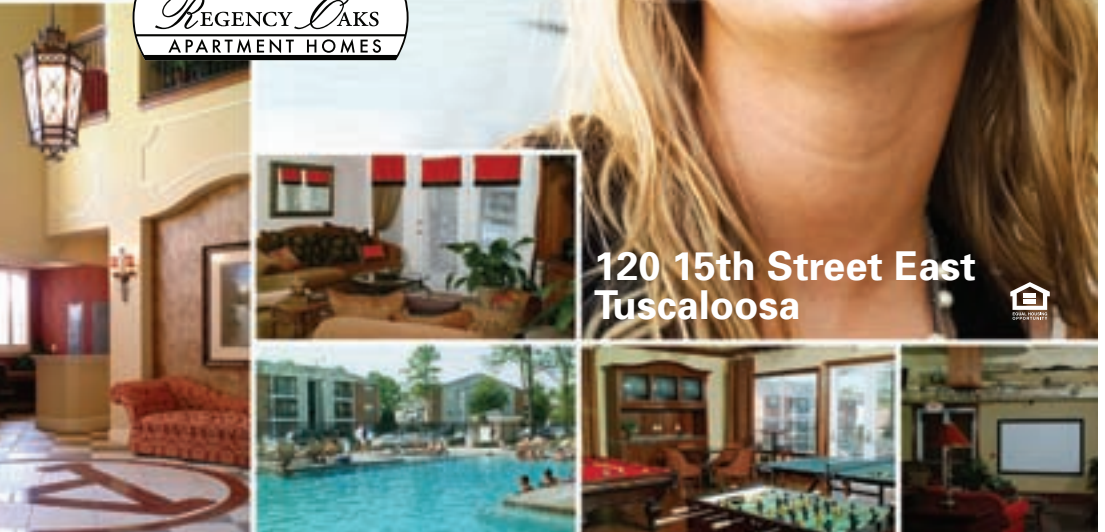
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Our View

What we've all learned

As the school year ends, it's important to reflect on the previous year and all the lessons you've learned. Students leave for the summer with new knowledge to take into the world. We at The CW have a few lessons to add to that, hopefully, already long list.

— We've learned that you can't split a Homecoming concert by kicking the black rap group to the outskirts of campus and not expect people to want real answers for the decision. This year's Homecoming was the University's 175th anniversary. Although the administration said the concert was split up for space issues/security/logistics, they've left the whole truth quite blurry. And with a stunt like that you've got to wonder what were we celebrating 175 years of exactly?

— Study rooms aren't residence hall rooms. With implementing the freshman residency program, the University accepted more students than they had mandatory room for. So naturally they converted study rooms into residence hall rooms. The big problem with this is that those rooms aren't big enough for one person, let alone two.

— Students were appalled by the construction of the \$200,000 fountain on the Ferg Plaza in August last year. However, many good things have come of this fountain. We've learned that it's not only pretty to look at — in the same way a busted fire hydrant is — but the fountain is also great for washing off gameday body paint. Pretty and utilitarian, who knew?

— And speaking of gameday, in April we learned just how many people want to watch football practice. More than 92,000 people flooded Bryant-Denny Stadium on April 21 for the A-Day game, breaking and setting records across the country for the largest crowd at a college football spring practice. Take that Tennessee. And Florida.

— On another football note, "Darby up the middle" is a phrase that will now send almost all Alabama fans — and Mike Shula — into fits as they remember the dismal 2006 season.

— We've also learned that you can't buy sobriety, but you can buy the Strip. With the University buying The Booth, and quietly considering the purpose of other property on the Strip, students are up in arms.

— And lastly, we've learned that students aren't invincible, even though we think we are. With the deaths of 17 UA students this year, and the recent shootings at Virginia Tech, we're all a little more thankful for not only summer, but for everything we've got.

So take care of yourselves, UA students. We want you all back here in the fall. Roll Tide!

Our View is the consensus of the CW editorial board.

Letter to the Editor

Barter decision was justified

We are responding to the "Our View" editorial published April 30, in which the consensus of the board was that the Executive Vice President Madeline Barter made a grave error in how she chose the chairmen and chairwomen of the SGA Senate committees.

The SGA Senate is governed by "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition." These rules outline several possible ways in which committees and their respective committee chairs may be chosen. One of those ways is that in which Barter chose her arbitrary appointments of those chairpersons.

Barter was duly elected by the students of this university, and because she was elected in this manner, she reserves her right to appoint who she sees fit. It is also prudent to note that the United States Congress uses the same process that Barter used to select chairmen of

the many House and Senate Committees.

The editorial board also mentioned the Machine, and that it was another effort by this group to control the SGA. If there were such a plot for the Machine to control the Senate, all of the committees would be headed by greek senators.

Also, the SGA Senate takes personal offense that The Crimson White portrays our representative body as one riddled with strife. Rather, it has become our sincere goal to empower students.

Therefore, let it be known that we as senators and representatives of the student body stand behind Executive Vice President Barter and her decisions as head of the Senate.

SGA senators *Jesse L. Woods, Gregory Poole, Matthew Owen, S. Kyle Hamilton, Brandon Clark, Jack Morgan, Allen Ross, John William Morris, Natalie Harris, Rebecca Rose Lutonsky, Christopher Bennett Brinson, Jake Burchfield, Amanda Minor, Hailey Lann, Will Evans, Glen Achorn and Stan Ingram*

SENIOR FAREWELL

Time to end this with a bang

Wow. It has been more than a year since I've sat down to write a column with "Watchman" in the title.

For those old enough to remember, I was (and potentially still am) the guy everybody loved to hate. I talked about Jesus — a lot. I talked about Him enough so that people devoted entire columns to decry my existence. And you won't get away without me mentioning Him a time or two again.

But I won't let this whole column be some self-serving spiel about me. You don't want to know anything about me. So, just bear with me for a couple of paragraphs, and then we'll get to the good stuff — my awesome staff and Jesus.

I began this year on trial — on trial because of who I was, my experience, my intelligence level, etc. I wasn't the chosen one, the good one, the liberal enough one, the conservative enough one. The SGA had a resolution that mentioned me by name for goodness sake. Sean Hoade drew an editorial cartoon about me and how I would turn the newspaper into a conservative rag.

I won't even talk about half of the mean and nasty comments people threw my way.



The Watchman

Marlin Caddell

caddell@cw.ua.edu

There are only two responses I have for everything: By no stretch of the imagination did I turn The Crimson White into a conservative rag, and my staff has certainly made up for any failings I have.

My staff has been more than invaluable to me — coming through in ways I could only imagine they would. It bears repeating that there would be no way in a column to name drop everyone who has played some sort of impact on my life or made this difficult job an enjoyable one. Though you may be unnamed, you all hold a special place in my heart.

They are my second family, the ones I love. These are the greatest group of people I have ever had the privilege of working with, and they are journalists of the highest

caliber who care about their work. I can't give them enough praise.

I'll never forget all the times I shared with you eating cake with our faces, adding quotes to the list we aren't allowed to talk about, putting up permanent Christmas trees and singing about budget meetings.

My entire college career was spent with you in that second-floor room in the Office of Student Media. I can only hope I shared with you as much encouragement as you gave me.

The only thing I know to leave with you and the rest of the student body is the reason for my hope — the love of Jesus Christ. While I was a sinner, Christ broke into time and space, becoming a man to die for my horrible sin — and yours.

Our sin separated us from a relationship with God. He loved you so much that He couldn't bear to be separated from you.

He loved you so much that He took the wages of sin, death, upon Himself so you could be made whole again.

Jesus really can heal your broken heart and make you whole again if you'll just let Him. Lay your burdens and your heavy load on His shoulders,

all your pain and all your hurt.

I'm begging you on my knees to accept the gift of pardon Jesus Christ offers you. Ask Him to come into your heart and forgive you of your sin.

Please don't let yourself be separated permanently from God, and please, don't wait another minute. Ask Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of your life. I can't ask you all enough.

Don't let things people have said to you in the past or any hypocrisy of other people stop you from coming to the cross.

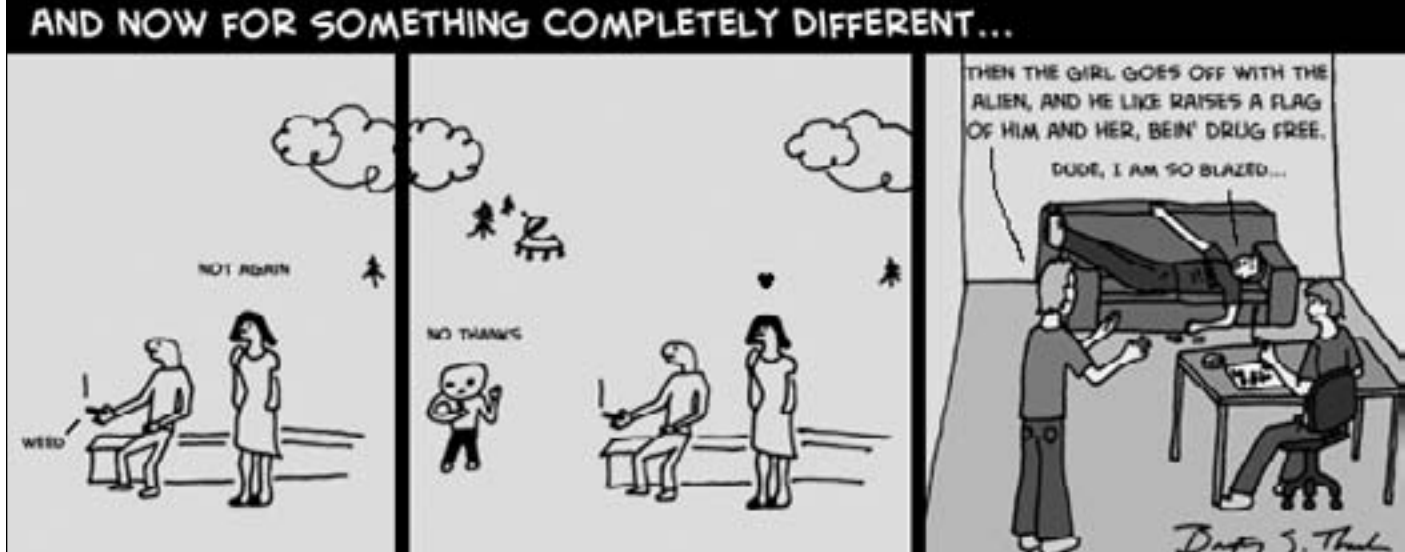
I only have one more question for students who claim the name of Christ. Have you put Jesus on the throne of your life? Have you made Him the most important thing in your life?

Don't let anything stop you from putting Him first.

I'll end this the way I started.

"I believe what I believe is what makes me what I am. I did not make it, no it is making me. It is the very truth of God and not the invention of any man." — Rich Mullins

Marlin Caddell is the outgoing editor of The Crimson White. He graduates in May.



Submitted by Braxton Thrash

I appreciate May Day as a holiday

By Nathalie Reshard

During my most humbling semester at the University of Alabama (taking mostly all 101 classes as a qualified senior), I must admit I am still learning. Today in my American Civilization class we discussed the Civil War, more specifically the impact of the Emancipation Proclamation. This reminded me summer is almost here, and my favorite holiday is just around the corner.

In my home state of Florida, we call this holiday 'May Day,' the first days in which slaves from the South received word of the Emancipation Proclamation. From history class we learned that President Lincoln issued this decree on Jan. 1, 1863, and it didn't take into effect because of the North's terrible position in the Civil War at the time. The proclamation freed slaves in most of the Southern states, but not

in some territories. As you may have inferred, our area in Florida did not receive word until the month of May. Likewise, 'May Day' is celebrated as 'June Teenth' in states such as Texas.

What provoked me to write this guest column is the article I just finished reading in The CW. From The Associated Press, the article details Alabama's House and Senate approval of slavery apologies. While this sounds all good and gravy, this exploited my awareness to the short time period between the Civil War and today. The emergence of equality is still very much short lived in our country. This article says these apologies, also from Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina this year, state a resolution that "the remembrance and teaching about the history of slavery, Jim Crow laws, and modern day slavery, to ensure that these tragedies will neither be forgotten nor repeated."

In the article it also states this bill was passed the day after offices were closed for Confederate Memorial Day. Not being from Alabama, I have never heard of state offices being closed for this holiday. Having a slave heritage on my maternal and paternal sides (South Carolina and Florida respectively) my parents have always reiterated the need for me to know our history. It's ironic that a holiday such as May Day has faded to obscurity with today's youth, while the state takes off for related holidays such as Confederate Memorial Day.

I'm not trying to be dense, I realize the extremities of setting a national holiday or a statewide one for that matter, but I would love for May Day to be celebrated across the Southern states like it was before integration. The importance of the Emancipation Proclamation affected all of the country,

or the Confederacy for that matter, and people should embrace the equality it brought.

As for the short time gap between the Civil War and today, it has come with discrimination and prejudice. We are still very much in the healing stages just now issuing apologies. No, society does not need to issue reparations, but we do need to continue educate our youth on all aspects of our history despite if it is meaningful for the individual or not.

As for me, back home I'll be taking part in the parade, cookout, museum tour and concert this third weekend in May. And I hope maybe this column will reach the eyes of someone who has never heard of my favorite non-national holiday, May Day.

Nathalie Reshard is a senior majoring in business management.

Dorm holds clothing swap

Community Closet to sponsor clothing swap

By JACOB SUMMERS
Staff Reporter

One man's garbage is another man's treasure, and students cleaning out their old band T-shirts and worn-in Pumas can share them Sunday, when students will have the chance to shop in their neighbors' closets.

The Move-Out Clothing Swap, sponsored by the student organization Community Closet, will be held Sunday afternoon from 12:30 to 5 at Riverside. At the swap, students can donate clothing or swap old clothing for something already donated.

"This is our second project this semester," said Lindsay Griffith, president of Community Closet and a junior majoring in psychology. "We are focusing on

clothes and some school supplies — we want to do something to help the community."

Griffith said Community Closet will set up tables in the Riverside Community Center and will lay out donations as they get them so students who come to get rid of clutter from their dorm rooms have the option to swap their clothing if they see something they like.

"It's all set up for trading out stuff for maybe something you like. If students see something they like, like a shirt or skirt, then they can get it," Griffith said.

However, students are only allowed to take as many items as they donate to make sure the charitable organizations that receive the items truly benefit from the efforts, she said.

Griffith also said if students choose to, they can donate new or gently used school supplies and Community

If you go ...

What: Move-Out Clothing Swap

When: Sunday, 12:30 to 5 p.m.

Where: Riverside Community Center

Closet will be holding a back-to-school event later this year.

"This is our first semester," Griffith said. "We just registered in early February, and we had a prom event already. We plan on taking school supplies to help out with a back-to-school event, but that will be later this year."

Griffith said the goals of the organization are to work with other organizations on campus to provide several benefits to the community, incorporating as many students on campus as possible.

In fact, several students have expressed an interest in the clothes drive. Some students said they might take part in the swap even though they didn't know about it before this week.

"I'll probably donate my clothes to charity," said Rick Winn, a freshman majoring in marketing.

Winn said, however, he would probably donate the clothes and not exchange them for anything.

"I'll probably donate it all to charity," he said.

Kristen Fitzpatrick, a sophomore majoring in chemistry, said the drive has the potential to engage students.

"It's something interesting, something fun to do," Fitzpatrick said. "I didn't have specific plans to attend it, but I just didn't know much about it until recently. But if students have the opportunity to donate and possibly get stuff by swapping, that would be cool."

CHANGES

Continued from Page 1

see how it's handled."

Elizabeth Kessenich, a freshman majoring in social work, said there is a lot of confusion about the system's details.

"They really need to get everything together with the transit and get a real plan put together," Kessenich said. "A lot of things are really up in the air right now, or that's how it seems. There are a lot of questions people still have, like where, when and exactly how it's going to work."

Parking limited to campus edges

In addition to closing the roads around the Quad, parking around the core of campus will be limited to decrease traffic volume so the buses will arrive to their locations on time, University officials said.

The smaller, 30-minute lot next to the Ferguson Center will not be open for use. Instead, it will be used as a gated reserve lot. The Ferguson Parking Deck will be residential parking for freshmen living in Ridgecrest until a Ridgecrest parking deck can be planned and constructed.

Jessica Nelson, a sopho-

more majoring in nursing, said the reserved lot could tailor to more drivers if used more practically.

"I'd rather walk than pay \$310 for a parking space," Nelson said. "The more parking the better, and I'm glad that those will be more than just 30-minute spaces, but they're taking spaces away from other commuters by doing that. I understand it's about money, but if they opened the lot up to commuters more people could park there than just the certain amount that have it reserved."

Commuters will have a new lot though, University officials said. A parking lot that will provide 830 additional spaces will take over the grassy area to the side of the Rec Center fields. The transit system will take students to this lot and other zone perimeter lots.

Brooke Hylbert, a freshman majoring in public relations, said the lot will help, but the space could have been used more effectively.

"I think it is a good idea and it could really help out with some of the parking issues, but I can't figure out why, with all of that space, they wouldn't just build a deck there. That would have been the smarter thing to do," she said. "The University always seems to under-utilize space somehow,

I guess this was just part of that plan."

Drew Jackson, a sophomore majoring in business management, said commuters living off campus seem to be affected the most by the changes.

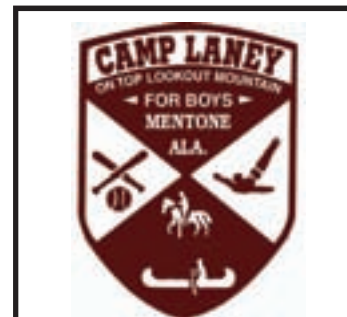
"I'm glad they're making new spaces, but, essentially, so many spaces are getting taken away that a parking lot like that is only replacing what is being lost," he said. "I just think it's funny that they don't want us to live on campus and then they take away all of our commuter parking. What are we supposed to do?"

The University will accept bids for the construction of the lot May 15. UA officials said if the construction stays on schedule, the lot will be completed by mid-August.

West Campus changes continue

By the end of summer, traffic along Hackberry Lane will have a new view of Shelby Hall when construction to route the road behind the building is completed.

Construction for the Science Quad where Hackberry used to run will begin sometime in fall 2007. This will eventually include two new science buildings and a walkway area, creating a miniature Quad.



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Students question UA's approach to Strip

City continues their own plans for Strip's future

By CASSY SPENCER
Contributing Writer

Students met Monday night in the Morgan Hall auditorium along with SGA President R.B. Walker, a board of Tuscaloosa city councilmen, business owners and SGA Vice President of External Affairs Britney Mitchell for another SGA Student Strip Advisory Board town hall meeting.

Ken Randall, dean of the UA School of Law, stood in for UA President Robert Witt to answer any student questions, most of which centered around why the University did not include much student

representation in its meetings about a consultant's study that proposed key changes to the Strip, most of which involved alcohol and safety. Other questions focused on the Strip property the University purchased.

City Council members said they have no personal involvement with what could be done with the property of the Strip bought by the University; however, they said they recommend advice for a new safety policy for the area. This could include more police patrolling for the purpose of safety, bar workers wearing bright, easily identified shirts and possibly changing bar closing times.

Police involvement would also increase in the downtown "entertainment district,"

by Fourth Avenue and 23rd Avenue, to create a safer student environment.

Councilman Lee Garrison said an increase in salary of the local police forces has led to a "higher quality" of law enforcement.

"The Strip's crime has dropped dramatically in the past 10 years," Garrison said.

At the meeting, Council members also advocated having more restaurants-turned-bars rather than just bars on the Strip to "diversify the Strip," one of the intentions of the University's Strip property purchase.

Several students in the audience said they spoke for the student body when they expressed great fear over the unknown future of the Strip.

Some said they worried large-scale decisions that have a strong impact on campus life are being made without them.

"I live on the Strip, and I really care about its future," said Eric Vines, a graduate student in finance.

Robert Reynolds, a member of the City Planning Commission, said the commission is actively participating in maintaining the historic districts of Tuscaloosa, the area close to 13th Street. Though the city is not buying any property, he said the main objectives of the project are to maintain the quality of the

student neighborhoods and to build higher quality housing for student availability because of the sharp increase of enrollment.

The City Council's decision

of the future of the Strip will be made after the city's Strip Advisory Committee meets for the last time on May 21 and will be released some time in June.

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VT panel to review shooting

By BOB LEWIS
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The eight-member panel that will probe last month's massacre at Virginia Tech meets for the first time next week under pressure to yield at least preliminary findings within three months.

Retired Virginia State Police Superintendent W. Gerald Massengill said Tuesday that dealing with mentally ill people such as Seung-Hui Cho has "bubbled to the surface" of the review panel he heads.

Without subpoena power, however, the panel could rely on other state institutions to pry loose the health and student records of Cho, the 23-year-old who killed 32 students and faculty and injured dozens more before fatally shooting himself.

"If there are legal restrictions, if there are statutes that prevent the flow of information to the panel that we think we need, we have the attorney general's office," he said.

There also are other avenues of state government available to the panel that might be able to subpoena testimony or documents, Massengill said. He said he expected no problems getting people to testify.

But Carl Tobias, a constitutional law professor at the University of Richmond, questioned whether an inquiry with a mandate as broad as the Virginia Tech panel's can do all its work without subpoenas.

"Maybe the attorney general could supplement the panel as needed, but it seems awfully cumbersome to me," Tobias said. "It could be that Virginia Tech finds that it has a conflict and decides not to answer and then you have to go to them [subpoenas]."

Nor was he certain that the



Mourners of the April 16 Virginia Tech shooting victims support one another on the steps of St. Mary's of the Annunciation church.

attorney general or other state agencies could act as a proxy to compel testimony or the production of evidence for a third-party panel in what is described as a review, not a criminal investigation.

He said Gov. Timothy M. Kaine might be able to provide the panel the power to obtain subpoenas if it finds a need for it later, "but I don't know why it wouldn't be authorized all along."

Among the most pressing issues before the panel are how a Virginia Tech student with an alarming history of morose and menacing behavior and whose court-ordered psychiatric treatment was a matter of public record was not stopped before he carried out the killings.

Also atop the panel's agenda are the actions Virginia Tech and police took in the interval between the two early morning slayings in a dormitory and the 30 more in Norris Hall 2 1/2 hours later and half a mile away.

But Massengill said Tuesday he expects the panel's inquest also to cover issues as wide-ranging as gun-control laws

and post-traumatic disorders for police, medics and others who saw the carnage at the Blacksburg campus.

"Can you only imagine what it's like to open the door such as was done on the second floor of Norris Hall by those young police officers and first-responders and see what was seen and imagine what that does to you over the days and weeks and months and even years to come?" Massengill said.



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INbrief

from wire reports...

Another booted from 'Dancing With the Stars'

LOS ANGELES — Former "Cheers" mailman and popular Pixar Studios voice John Ratzenberger became the latest celebrity casualty Tuesday on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars."

Though judge Bruno Tonioli said the actor's moves made it look as if he had "been to dance rehab," his footwork failed to impress fans.

Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine which couple will be eliminated

each week.

Ratzenberger thanked his professional partner, Edyta Sliwiska, and said, "Her kindness and patience and friendship has really been astounding."

Tuesday's results show also included a "Sports Center" spoof with ESPN reporter Kenny Mayne, an early reject of the second season of "Dancing With the Stars." He was joined by fellow Season 2 alumnus Jerry Rice and show judge Len Goodman.

In their analysis of the 60-year-old Ratzenberger, whom Mayne referred to as "J-Rat," they noted the actor's likeability.

"He's a veteran campaigner, he has no skills whatsoever, he's 70, 80 years old," Mayne said, "but he's lovable."

FILMS

Continued from Page 8

somewhat inadequate due to the fact that I often don't pay that much attention to what's going on in the world, so I kind of explored that and got some pretty solid ideas."

Students were required to spend 15 crew hours on other student's projects.

"By making it so we all have to help each other out, it gives us the chance to work with an experienced crew,"

FEIST

Continued from Page 8

with songs such as "Honey Honey." This dreamy song with its electronic raindrop sound and looped backing vocals is one of the more daring tracks

Fanning said.

There were no formal budgets for the projects, and students were encouraged to find their own sources of funding.

"Aside from equipment access and two mini DV tapes, we didn't get any other financial support," Fanning said. "I fortunately didn't have too many expenses. The film does feature one pretty expensive prop however, a pair of wings (as evidenced from the title) producer Peyton Blankenship built.

"She was able to make it for fairly cheap considering, but it

on the album.

"The Reminder" is a solid effort from a wonderful singer. Feist's voice sets her apart from most singers. Her songwriting is suspect at times, but that does not take away from the fact that there are still some fantastic tracks such as "Sea

still cost around \$200. Also, a number of the scenes in the film had to be shot at a location out of town, so gas and food costs were a bit higher than usual."

Those who attend the event are encouraged to ask the filmmakers about their particular works.

Flanagan said he hopes the event will inspire other TCF students and others who are passionate about filmmaking to become involved in the film-making process.

"This is an event that can

help us all blow off a little steam before exams, especially us TCF folks," he said. "We can just kick back for a night, watch our work and make fun of each other for it all when it's over."

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TCF seniors showcase films

Bama Theatre to feature student films tonight

BY LAURA PITTS
Entertainment Reporter
pitts@cw.ua.edu

Some call it class work. For others, it's simply one step closer to graduation.

However, for the telecommunication and film students who will be showcasing their films tonight, it's a passion.

A screening of senior video projects from the TCF department will be held at 7 at the Bama Theatre in downtown Tuscaloosa.

Admission is free, and if time permits, the short film "The Delivery," produced in Tom Cherone's TCF 389 class, will also be shown.

While each student's film is different, they each possess the storytelling quality that keeps us wanting more.

Take Ben Flanagan's piece, "The Flaw."

The scene is set: a first date between a guy and a girl that seems to be going well, that is until the guy has a bodily

malfunction that puts a damper on the evening, in turn leading from one crazy event to another.

The senior said his film is based on ideas and memories from real life that have had an impact on him in some way.

"It's basically embarrassing situations we have all experienced before, only we were allowed to embellish on them a bit," he said.

All the pieces in the showcase were made as projects for advanced TCF classes.

Flanagan's piece in particular was a project for TCF 240 Advanced Narrative Production, which is taught by Aaron Greer.

The purpose of the TCF classes and the projects is to develop filmmaking skills as technicians and storytellers for the development of a single idea into a short film, Flanagan said.

"The films last up to 15 or 20 minutes," Flanagan said.

"We all started from scratch with an idea, turned it into a script and gradually brought it to life through a semester's

If you go ...

What: UA student film showcase
When: Tonight, 7
Where: Bama Theatre
Cost: Free

worth of shooting.

"In addition to developing filmmaking skills, the class also stresses collaboration among filmmaking peers at UA. We were all supposed to participate on each other's sets as crew members. Whether that included camera work, lighting, gripping, driving down to Mobile for Mardi Gras, splattering fake blood or whatever, we were all game."

Flanagan's film isn't the only scene setter of the night.

Lee Fanning, also a senior, takes the art of storytelling to the screen with his film "The

Metal Wings."

In the film, Stacy Smith is missing and her only hope of being found lies in the hands of her friend Dawn and Dawn's genius brother Jason, an inventor.

With this in mind, Jason's new invention, a pair of rocket-propelled metal wings, might just be what the doctor ordered.

But the increasingly reclusive Jason sees little in the modern world that can threaten his cynical worldview — if it's problems can't be solved, then why try?

"The Metal Wings" was shot on location in North and West Alabama and is an intricate mystery and a modern parable of siblings, fears and overcoming adversity.

Fanning's film idea came from a mixture of places and from old episodes of "Batman: The Animated Series."

"It's also based somewhat on a friend of mine in high school who was convinced he could build an airplane," Fanning said. "I was also feeling

See **FILMS**, Page 7

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ALBUM REVIEW

Feist's release full of love songs

Canadian singer delivers third album since 2005

BY CALEB JOHNSON
Entertainment Reporter

Leslie Feist dips into the well of love, loss and longing on her latest album, "The Reminder." While the Canadian chanteuse is not the first singer to emote love, she does so better than most with her supple voice. Add jazzy piano, folksy guitar and an indie sensibility to Feist's rich vocals, and "The Reminder" becomes more than a standard album of love songs.

"So Sorry," the opening track, sets the tone for the rest of the album and shows Feist knows a thing or two about the subject of her lyrics. The longing in her voice elevates this pleading ballad above a clichéd love song. Her voice is transcendent as she croons, "We could hold each other tight, tonight," over the strumming of an acoustic guitar.

However, as good as Feist's quiet love songs can be, some bog the album down. The plodding jazzy track "The Water" features Feist drifting a little too far into Norah Jones territory. Instead of wanting to curl up in her warm voice, I wanted to skip past this nearly five-minute-long brooding song.

Luckily, there are upbeat songs, such as "Sea Lion Woman," that bring the album back to life. Whether the "Sea Lion Woman" Feist sings about



is herself or a romantic rival is unclear. All I know is I want to meet this woman and dance with her to the handclaps, tambourine and fuzzed-out guitar the track boasted.

Feist gets into trouble when her songs eclipse the four-minute mark. Along with "The Water," songs such as "The Park" and "Intuition" are some of the weaker tracks on the album, and both are more than four minutes long.

I kept waiting for the four-and-a-half-minute "Limit to Your Love" to break out into a Motown-like crescendo, but it never happened. Instead, the song rises and falls while Feist sings over meandering keys and strings.

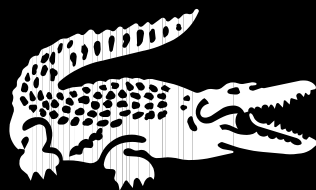
Just when I begin to lose interest in "The Reminder," I am reeled back in with the song "1234." The acoustic guitar strums give a nice rhythm to the song that suits Feist's voice. Banjo, horn and "Whoa-oh-oh" backing vocals form a larger, eclectic sound that probably comes from the singer's time spent in Canadian indie rock collective Broken Social Scene.

"1234" could be this album's "Mushaboom," the breakout hit from Feist's 2005 debut "Let It Die."

But unlike her debut, Feist

co-wrote every song but one on the new album. This gave her more freedom to experiment

See **FEIST**, Page 7



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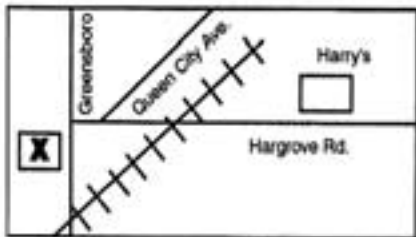
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INbrief

from staff reports ...

Six Tide players sign NFL contracts after the draft

The day after the National Football League draft concluded, six Alabama football players signed free agent contracts with NFL teams on Monday.

After three Crimson Tide players were selected in the draft on Sunday, Tim Castille, Jeremy Clark, Jeffrey Dukes, Chris Harris, Juwan Simpson and Kyle Tatum all joined the ranks of former Alabama players in the NFL.

Castille, a fullback from Birmingham, signed a contract with the Arizona Cardinals.

He played in all 13 games in 2006 and led the team with six rushing touchdowns. He finished the year with 129 yards on 46 carries to go along with 15 receptions for 91 yards.

In his career he recorded 21 rushing touchdowns and 533 yards on 161 rushing attempts. He caught 60 career passes for 380 yards.

"It has always been a dream of mine to play at the next level," said Castille. "I am going to try to make the most of it and do what I need to do to make the team."

Clark, a defensive lineman from Daphne, signed a contract with the Philadelphia Eagles.

He started 12 games for the Tide last season and finished with 24 tackles and a fumble recovery. He finished his career with 86 tackles, 4.5 sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to work out with the Philadelphia Eagles," said Clark.

"I am going to make the most out of the opportunity and am not going to waste it because a lot of people never get this chance."

Dukes, a safety from Oxford, Miss., signed a contract with the St. Louis Rams.

He tied for the team lead with 86 tackles in a breakout 2006 season.

He started all 13 games and recorded three interceptions with two pass breakups. He had 109 career tackles with four interceptions and two forced fumbles.

"It is something I have always dreamed about," said Dukes. "Playing in the NFL is something I have always wanted to do, and I am very excited to get started."

Harris, a defensive lineman from Tuscaloosa, signed a contract with the Kansas City Chiefs.

He played in 12 games last season for Alabama with 20 tackles and a forced fumble. He had 46 career tackles with three sacks, one interception and one forced fumble.

Simpson, an outside linebacker from Decatur, signed a contract with the Green Bay Packers.

He tied for the team lead with 86 tackles last year to go along with one interception and two forced fumbles.

For his career he tallied 243 tackles with 16.5 tackles for a loss, four sacks, three interceptions, three forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.

Tatum, an offensive tackle from Prattville, joined fellow teammate Le'Ron McClain when he signed a contract with the Baltimore Ravens.

McClain was drafted in the fourth round on Sunday by the Ravens. Tatum played a total of 256 snaps in 12 games last season. He had 16 knockdown blocks for the Crimson Tide.

The six signees on Monday up the total of Alabama players in the NFL to 32.

Nine players from last year's squad will try to make their respective NFL teams as three players were drafted and six have signed NFL contracts.

Besides McClain, Kenneth Darby was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Ramzee Robinson by the Detroit Lions in the seventh round of the draft.

BASEBALL ■ ALABAMA 12, MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE 1

Trio of homers help Tide wallop MVSU

By BEN DAKE
Sports Reporter

Sophomore third baseman Alex Avila continued to showcase his red-hot bat Tuesday night as he hit his fourth home run in as many games and helped lead the Crimson Tide to a 12-1 victory over the Mississippi Valley State Delta Devils.

Alabama head coach Jim Wells was pleased with his team continuing the offensive momentum from the weekend series.

"It was good to see us continue to swing the bats and see everyone participate," Wells said.

Senior pitcher Patrick Kelly took the mound for the Tide and pitched a gem in his first start since March 7. In six innings of work, he allowed only two hits and struck out eight batters through 95 pitches. He only walked one batter.

Though Kelly pitched well, he had a lot of help from his offense. Along with Avila, Ryan Rhoden hit his second home run of the year and the Tide saw another homer from an unlikely power source.

Sophomore reserve catcher Brian Clark blasted a solo shot off the scoreboard for his



LEFT: Sophomore reserve catcher Brian Clark is greeted by Tommy Hunter and the rest of his teammates after smashing his first career home run Tuesday night. RIGHT: Sophomore catcher Ryan Rhoden points skyward after hitting his second homer of the season Tuesday night against MVSU. The Tide hit three homers in the rout.

first career long ball.

"I saw a fastball and just tried to take a hard back at it," Clark said. "Tommy [Hunter] told me to take one out, and I said I was going to take one good swing for it. Fortunately, I got a good ball to hit."

The Tide offense appeared to have picked up where it left off from Sunday's game, giving the Tide a 3-0 lead after the first inning.

Senior Emeel Salem led off for the Tide by trotting to first after being hit by the Devils'

pitcher. Salem advanced into scoring position off a Brandon May single. Avila then advanced both runners and loaded the bases with his first hit of the night. Kent Matthes capitalized, singling in Salem to give the Tide a 1-0 lead.

Junior first baseman Matt Bentley extended the Tide's lead to 2-0 after hitting a sacrifice fly to right field that scored May from third and put runners on the corner for Elvin Vargas. Vargas reached



CW/T.G. Paschal

on a fielder's choice, but Avila was unable to cross the plate as he was caught in a run-down situation and thrown out at third.

Senior Brandon Belcher pushed the final run of the inning across the plate with a single.

The Tide's offense sputtered for the next four innings, being retired in order once and only scoring one run.

The offensive explosion, however, would happen in the sixth inning for the Tide,

when they scored five runs.

Salem led off the inning with a single and advanced to third on a bloop hit-and-run single by May. Bentley scored Salem on his second single of the night. Vargas cleared the bases with a double to left field, and extended the Tide's lead to 7-0. Rhoden would clear the bases again except this time with a home run into the trees just beyond the left field fence.

In the seventh inning, Avila would extend his offensive streak by blasting a two-run homer over the right field fence, giving the Tide an 11-0 lead.

Wells said it is important for Avila to continue his hot streak.

"You can't win without the middle of the lineup," Wells said.

Avila said Wells has had simple advice for him.

"Keep it up," Avila said.

Avila said he thinks the offensive momentum will carry on into the upcoming weekend series against the Florida Gators.

"After Sunday's game, we felt a lot more confident," Avila said. "The confidence is back, and our offense believes that we can score a lot of runs."

■ MEN'S TENNIS

Tide squares off with 'Bucs in NCAA regional



Courtesy of UA Athletics

Freshman tennis player Saketh Myneni prepares to backhand a ball during the Ole Miss match. Myneni will be in the No. 6 spot for the Tide.

By GREG OSTENDORF
Sports Reporter

The No. 17 Alabama men's tennis team is headed to the NCAA Tournament, where they will meet No. 51 East Tennessee State in the Durham Regional.

This is the 13th time in school history the Tide has reached the NCAA Tournament and the fourth time under head coach Billy Pate.

The rest of the Regional includes the host team, No. 14 Duke and Maryland-Baltimore County.

"It's a fair draw. I think the NCAA tried to regionalize it as much as possible," Pate said.

"When they have the opportunity to get teams ranked at a certain level and then geographically in the same area, they like to do that."

The team members said they were disappointed they

did not get the chance to host a regional in Tuscaloosa. The top 16 teams in the nation host regionals, and the Tide finished the year one spot back.

In the first round, Alabama will take on the Buccaneers of ETSU, which finished the season 23-4 and won the Atlantic Sun Conference. Junior Predrag Burmazovic and sophomore Enrique Olivares led the Bucs, and each had 26 wins on the year.

"We're going to have a tough first-round match against ETSU, and we need to figure some stuff out about them and how to compete against them," Pate said. "We really don't need to look ahead because it's not an easy thing to beat a team like that, and now we've got to go on the road to do it."

If the Tide defeats the Bucs, they will likely have to take out Duke on their home court to earn a trip to the

Sweet 16.

"Most of the time we have a little bit of a sense if we're in the SEC of who we're going to play, but we still prepare the same way each week," junior Billy Mertz said.

"With these teams, we don't know much about them, but we're going to go in there, work hard the next couple weeks and be ready to play."

Mertz comes in having played at the No. 1 singles spot in the SEC Tournament and will remain there for the NCAA Tournament. In fact, Pate plans to stick with that same lineup top to bottom.

The biggest difference from this year's team compared to the 2006 squad, which lost in the first round to Georgia Tech, is experience.

This year, the team has four starters who are upperclassmen and all but one who has tournament experience.

"The guys have learned to

See TENNIS, page 11

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■ **BASEBALL**

Avila takes tips, memories from MLB childhood

By **DAN SELLERS**
Sports Editor
■ sellers@cwua.edu

All baseball players want to experience a World Series. For Alabama's sophomore designated hitter Alex Avila, the goal has already been achieved.

Even though Avila was only 10 years old when he experienced the pinnacle of Major League Baseball, it is a night he remembers fondly.

"I was seven rows behind the third-base dugout," he said. "That was a pretty exciting night."

Most baseball fans remember the dramatic game-winning single by Edgar Renteria that helped the Florida Marlins become the youngest franchise to win a World Series.

The reason Avila had a field-side seat at that game and still feels like a part of the 1997 World Championship team is because his dad, Al Avila, was the man in charge of putting that team together.

Al Avila was the vice president and assistant general manager of the Florida Marlins from the club's inception in 1993 until 2002. Avila then departed for the same position with the Detroit Tigers, who finished as American League champions a season ago.

As a youngster, Avila was a fixture around the Marlins clubhouse, which is one thing that helped him develop as a player. He said several of the big-leaguers offered him tips.

"When my dad was with the Marlins, one of the guys that helped me out a little was Cliff Floyd," Avila said. "Me and him got along real well. He would always give me some tips about hitting."

"Brandon Inge has also given me some tips on footwork and some pointers on playing third base. When I'm in the clubhouse just hearing other guys talk, you pick things up."

As a freshman, Avila was an integral part of Alabama's

season that ended in a Super Regional. Avila had a .271 batting average with 14 doubles, five homers and 42 RBIs.

Through 45 games in the 2007 season, Avila is hitting .310 with 12 doubles, 10 homers and 42 RBIs.

Avila smashed two homeruns in the Tide's series-clinching win over South Carolina Sunday, including a game-winning three-run blast in the seventh inning.

Growing up around the game gave Avila a special opportunity, but he said more will be expected of him as a player because of that.

"It was an experience and privilege that I'll never forget," Avila said. "It gave me a lot of insights about baseball and how to play the game."

"I tried to take advantage of that. But now that I was given that opportunity a lot more is expected of me, which is fine, because just being around it has been a great opportunity for me."

Not only did growing up around a Major League clubhouse mean endless lessons on batting and fielding while rubbing shoulders with the stars, but going to work with his dad may pay big dividends for Avila in the future.

Avila said he learned so much about the business of baseball that he may pursue a job similar to his dad's once his playing days are over.

"I would absolutely love to have a job like that," he said. "I've been around him so much. I wouldn't say that I could do his job now, but I think I'm on my way to doing something like what he does just from gaining that experience and being around him."

Avila said his dad watches him play occasionally, but most times when the older Avila makes it down to Tuscaloosa, it's to scout future players.

During the Super Regional last season, however, Avila's dad was able to make it down

for one of his son's most memorable games.

With Alabama trailing by two runs in the ninth inning of the elimination game against North Carolina, Avila crushed a three-run homer to left field that helped Alabama regain the lead.

What happened as soon as Avila made contact is something he said remains a family joke nearly a year later.

"When me and him watch a baseball game, we don't show any emotion," Avila said. "We're always the same way no matter if it's a good thing or a bad thing."

"My mom was telling me that when I hit the home run he started jumping up and down like a regular fan. In all the years I've been around him, I've never seen him do that before."



Sophomore third baseman Alex Avila makes a throw across the diamond during Alabama's 12-1 win over Mississippi Valley State Tuesday night at The Joe. Avila grew up around the Florida Marlins organization as a child, because his dad, Al Avila, was the assistant general manager of the club.

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TENNIS

Continued from Page 9
see that the goals in front of them are very achievable," Pate

said. "They got a lot more consistent this year and have seen what they're capable of, and I think having veterans on the team has helped us do that."
The only player without NCAA Tournament experience

is freshman Saketh Myneni, who will be at the No. 6 singles spot for the Tide.
"We're coming in a little bit as underdogs and need to play well, especially going to Duke now and not playing at home,"

Myneni said. "I'm not real nervous because I started in the SEC Tournament, and I feel the same going into the NCAA Tournament."
A trip to the Sweet 16 would be Alabama's first since 2003.

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20 NYC hours
21 Is for two?
22 Methodological discipline
24 Kind of clam
26 Light touch
27 Pentateuch
29 Sketch again
34 Put in the bank
38 Clear frost
39 News piece
40 NFL team
42 Part of a dance
43 Plaster of
45 Superlatively bleak
47 Cut into thin pieces
49 Calls a chicken
50 Narc org.
52 Fireplace shelves
56 Look over
60 D-Day ride
61 Bovine comment
62 On the up-and-up
63 Aoki of the PGA
65 Actor Julia
66 Hackneyed
67 Is unable to
68 Sundial number
69 Helped out
70 Icelandic saga
71 Rosebud, e.g.

DOWN
1 Business transactions
2 Reliance
3 Playing marble
4 The better part of youth?
5 Barbecue favorite
6 Freed
7 Sushi bar order
8 Take by force
9 Like some pajamas
10 Wry face
11 Related (to)
12 Out of (discordant)
13 Wash down
21 Book after Joel
23 Auto
25 Submarine type
28 Listened to
30 Forbear
31 Religious custom
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33 Sobbed
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■ SOFTBALL

First Ladies

Alabama No. 1 in the polls for first time in school history

By CAROLINE GWALTNEY
Senior Sports Reporter
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The Alabama Softball team was listed as the No. 1 team in the nation for the first time in school history, as the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll was released Tuesday.

"It's just really exciting for everybody," said Crimson Tide head coach Patrick Murphy. "I

wasn't going to take it for granted that we were going to move up, but it's pretty exciting. This is a great day for everybody in our program. It's been a long, long work in progress and a lot of hard work."

For the first time, the No.1 and No. 2 (Tennessee) teams are from the SEC.

The Tide moved to No. 2 in the national rankings for the first time in school history on March 13 before they played Florida. It marked the first time

an Alabama team had ever been ranked higher than third.

Alabama is 50-4 on the year and one of only two teams with 50 wins nationally. They are 21-4 in conference play, which placed them in a tie for first in the SEC heading into the final weekend of conference play. Alabama is just the second SEC team to ever achieve a No. 1 ranking.

Tennessee has held the top spot since the first week of rankings, and Alabama has

been in the No. 2 spot several times throughout the year.

But this weekend in the last series of the regular season, the two teams will have a chance to square off in a three-game series in Knoxville, Tenn., which will be televised nationally by the ESPN family of networks.

The first game of a double-header on Saturday will be televised by ESPN2 at 1 p.m. ESPN will then air the series finale on Sunday at 1 p.m.

The two teams have met 33 previous times with Alabama holding a 22-11 advantage in the series. Last year, the Tide swept a three-game series with the Lady Vols at home but fell to them in the second game of the SEC Tournament.

Despite all of the success this season for the Tide, Murphy said he still can't believe the team is No. 1 for the first time. Heading into the year, Alabama put a new infield together and also had a new starter in the outfield.

What was thought by many to be a rebuilding season for the Tide has ended up being a record-breaking year. They have already set school records for stolen bases and home runs in a season and are on pace to set more records before the year is over.

Alabama senior Mandy

Burford said she and her teammates are getting hyped to play the Lady Vols.

"There is no question that it will be a defining moment of the season," Burford said. "And we're hoping to come away with three wins."

Tennessee's ace pitcher Monica Abbott recently equaled the NCAA Division I career strikeout mark of 2,265, but the Tide knows they have had success against her before. "We know we are capable of playing well against Monica and Tennessee," she said. "We've had great bats all sea-

son, and I know we will be able to get the job done against her."

Burford said this was the year she knew she was going to have to step up at the plate as a power hitter, and it seems her success has carried over to her other teammates.

"The entire team is capable of hitting, but I think there's something to be said for great team chemistry," she said. "It carries over to how you play, and we all have that feeling that at any moment anyone can get the job done."



Courtesy of UA Athletics

Senior left fielder Mandy Burford connects with a pitch during a recent game. The Crimson Tide softball team is ranked No. 1 for the first time in school history and will face No. 2 Tennessee this weekend in Knoxville.

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