SGA wants to change campus

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CW staffer tries out for 'Idol'

Crimson

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UA makes changes for 23,000 students

Projected UA 2006-07 enrollment numbers

Wednesday, August 23, 2006

Total Enrollment: 23,000+ Freshmen: 4,200 **Percent increase** of freshmen from **2005-06**: 12%

Campus makes adjustments in parking, Bama Dining for largest freshman class ever

By Lori Creel Staff Reporter ■ creel@cw.ua.edu

With more than 23,000 students expected to enroll on campus this fall, University officials are making changes from parking to dining to relieve the squeeze from the influx of students.

This year's freshman class is

expected to include more than 4,200 students, up from 3,739 last year, said Judy Bonner, executive vice president and provost. Though official numbers for the fall will not be available for several weeks registration continues through the first week of classes — this year's entering class will be larger and will include more National Merit scholars and students with perfect high school GPAs, she said.

Students are feeling the squeeze in dorms, where mandatory on-campus housing for freshmen has left residence halls filled nearly to capacity.

About 70 women in Julia

Tutwiler Hall are living temporarily in study rooms located at the ends of each floor, said David Jones, director of housing and residential communities, but they will be moved as space becomes available.

About 20 students are living four to an apartment in Rose Towers, which was originally designed to be "family style," he said. Over the past several years, only three students have lived in each apartment, and last year most apartments in Rose Towers housed two stu-

"Everyone knows it's going to be a little more full," Jones said. "We want to make sure there are things we can do to make everything go a little more smoothly for everyone."

The official number of students living in residence halls will not be available until early next week after the no-show list is complete, Jones said, but he hasn't seen a significant number of no-shows so far.

To ease the process of moving in last weekend, students were assigned times so that everyone didn't arrive at once, Jones said.

To provide parking for the increased number of students living on campus, some commuter parking has been reassigned to on-campus residents. Ronnie Robertson, director of transportation services, said commuter parking in the North Ferguson lot will be removed to provide parking for Lakeside residents.

Commuter parking in the Ferguson deck will be limited to the bottom two levels to allow more parking for residents in the area, where parking spaces are limited because of construction. Parking lots previously designated all-decal freshman commuter parking will be converted to commuter and resident parking.

Commuter

See **ENROLLMENT**, Page 2

Alabama ranks 39th in U.S. News

UA ties with rivals Auburn and Tennessee among public universities

By Christy Conner Assistant Campus Editor conner@cw.ua.edu

After dropping 11 spots in 2006, the Capstone has regained its highest-ever U.S. News and World Report best colleges ranking of 39th among all public universities.

The ranking is even with the University's 2005 ranking and UA tied with Auburn and Tennessee among public universities and is 88th overall in the 2007 rankings.

Last year, the University, ranked 50th, dropping behind 37th ranked Auburn, but this year Auburn fell two spots while Alabama jumped 11, leaving the two rivals tied.

"Alabama is lucky to have two quality public universities," UA President Robert Witt

Witt credited the 11-spot jump to an effort to "attract the best and brightest to the University," including expanded retention efforts, amplified alumni giving and increasing the number of classes with fewer than 20 students, he said.

Chris Kohl, a senior majoring in communicative disorders, said the academics are harder at Alabama than the previous school he attended.

parents didn't necessarily look at rankings, but I do think that they are happier with me going to Alabama because it is such a popular school," Kohl said.

Although Witt was excited about the University's 2007 ranking, he also downplayed the ranking's likely impact on the University's recruiting.

"The fact that we're ranked in the top 50 universities helps our recruiting effort,' he said. "But do I believe that a student at the end of the day will choose one university over another based solely on the rankings?

U.S. News and **World Report Rankings**

Alabama: 48 Auburn: 44

Tennessee: 44 Alabama: 39

Auburn: 42 Tennessee: 44

Alabama: 50 Auburn: 37 Tennessee: 38

Alabama: 39 Auburn: 39 Tennessee: 39

I think that's unlikely."

Witt plans to swell the school's enrollment to 28,000 students by 2013.

U.S. News and World Report determines its rankings by judging institutions based on selectivity, faculty resources, financial resources and retention ratings.

Fatoumata Diallo, a senior majoring in accounting, said she is happy about the jump in rankings, but said her parents didn't focus on rankings.

"I didn't really know much about it before, but I am pretty happy about it," Diallo said.

Among other rankings, the University ranked 20th on the "students who pack the stadium" list and 17th on "most nostalgic for Ronald Reagan" list as decided by the Princeton

One list Alabama did not make was that of the top 20 party schools.

This is the second consecutive year Alabama has not made the party schools list.

Senior reporter Nicholas Beadle contributed to this report.

Gone greek



to the number of women still active in the

last round of Recruitment.

ars came from Todd Borst, director of greek affairs)

Sorority sisters and alumnae pose for formal pictures after welcoming the new pledge class Sunday while their friends and family look on.

By Ellen Burke and NICHOLAS BEADLE

The Crimson White/ Corolla Yearbook

New pledge's diary sketches the ups, downs of sorority Recruitment

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from a feature that will appear in the 2007 Corolla yearbook. For ordering information, visit corolla. ua.edu or call 348-8032.

"I am looking forward to this experience. I know it will be something to remember for a lifetime."

er long, curly dark hair, persistent smile and petite frame were lost in the congregation of cocktail dresses, flip-flops and anxiety that snaked through

sorority row last week.

She kept track of the squealing pageantry of Recruitment week at the Capstone. Her diary entries scribble a tale of tyrannical heat, sore feet and riled nerves, all leading to the blissful relief of snagging a bid.

Her story began in Coleman Coliseum as part of the pack of high-strung hopefuls aiming to network their way into sisterhood. It ended with a flurry of photos taken on the steps of a familiar house.

Because of sorority rules, her name could not be used for this excerpt.

"I have never seen so many girls in one place at one time. We were all feeling the same emotions: excitement, anxiety, fear and nervousness."

"I told her not to get set on one house," her mother said. Her mother's remark meant she should not hedge

her bets on getting a firstgeneration legacy bid to the house forever intertwined with college in her mother's mind. But she had women registered last year for Recruitment not fallen in love with any house. She had wanted to join a sorority long before she knew women registered this year for Recruitment she was coming to Alabama. Going through Recruitment just seemed natural to her. Still, she said she did Each year a different quota is set on the last day of Recruitment. The quota is proportional

not know what to expect after being herded into Coleman Coliseum on Aug. 14 with the rest of the more than 1,300 hopefuls. It was there that the girls' schedule was laid out for the next week. "No matter what

you think, it's always something different," she said.

But on Aug. 15, the first full

See **GREEK**, Page 2

The Crimson White ■ Box 870170 Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 ■ Newsroom – 348-6144 Fax – 348-4116 ■ Advertising – 348-7845

ANNOUNCEMENTS

'Welcome Back' breakfast today

Students have the option of a free breakfast today in the Ferguson Center Plaza from 7:30 to 10 am, sponsored by the Ferguson Center, Alabama Credit Union and Bama Dining. Doughnuts and juice will be served, and students may also pick up campus maps at the event.

Contra dance to be held Saturday

The monthly contra dance for August, sponsored by the International Folk Dancers and Tuscaloosa Contra dancers, will be from 7 to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday at Forest Lake United Methodist Church, at 1711 Fourth Ave. in Tuscaloosa.

A lesson will be given from 7 to 7:30 p.m., and the dance will follow. Music will be provided by Sons of Anak, and the caller will be Reuven AnafShalom. A donation of \$7 is asked for general admission. Students are asked to pay \$5, and a donation of \$12 is asked for families. No experience is necessary, and dancers can come with or without partners. Bringing clean soft-soled shoes is recommended.

For more information call (314) 255-2176, e-mail contradancers@mound.net or visit www.contradance.org.

Free food in the Ferg today

The Ferguson Center along with Housing and Residential Communities is sponsoring a cereal buffet and waffle bar across from the Ferg Theater on Friday at 8 p.m.

The event will also feature a free presentation of the Adam Sandler movie "Click" in the Ferg Theater at 9 p.m.

UA vocal ensembles holding auditions

The UA School of Music vocal ensembles are looking for new members for the 2006-07 school year.

John Ratledge, director of choral acitivites, hopes to attract both music majors and non-majors. Auditions are for University Singers, the University Chorus and the Alabama Women's Chorale.

Contact Ratledge at 348-0178 or e-mail him at jratledge@ music.ua.edu for more information.

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers after 1 p.m.

Thursday Partly cloudy 83°/63°

Thunderstorms Friday

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I have never seen so many girls in one place at one time. We were all feeling the same emotions: excitement, anxiety, fear and nervousness."

— A new UA sorority member on the emotional atmosphere surrounding the 2006 Alabama **Panhellenic Association Recruitment.** See "Going Greek,"

Page 1.

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But on Aug. 15, the first full day of Recruitment, she was not thrown off by the hectic house-to-house tours or the drive-by socializing, but by the heat and the exercise. An afternoon rainshower made clinging to sorority row bearable, she said. The fan she brought

"Wearing flip-flops was a good idea. My feet don't hurt too bad, but my legs are tired."

to wear flip-flops, and many learned to carry small fans to survive the heat.

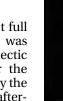
Once the first day of open houses was over, she felt more at ease.

She knew what to expect out of Recruitment. She had gotten used to the breakneck stops, the quick talks and the new songs waiting for her behind each front door.

"All of the girls singing at the door blew me away every time," she said. "It's hard to ence it yourself."

ductions, ice water teas and skits, lines were drawn and some were left outside.

"Each girl was nervous about who they were going to pick and wondering who picked them. It was exciting to



along became her first new best friend of the day.

Walking around, especially in the heat, was exhausting, she said. There were a few days when the girls were allowed

understand unless you experi-But after three days of intro-



New members parade from Bryant-Denny Stadium Sunday afternoon after receiving anticipated bids.

get on the computers and actually make the selections, though."

The women taking part in Recruitment gathered at computer labs in the Ferguson Center early Thursday morning to see if they had been dropped from a house or if they wanted to remove them-selves from a house. She said it was disappointing to find she had been dropped from a house she liked. But she said she enjoyed finding herself looking more closely at the houses that kept her on their

Her nerves "were going

crazy at times," but once the house doors were opened, she felt at ease.

'It's indescribable when you open your bid card."

Bid Day was Sunday, and not even noise from the crowds of parents and friends on sorority row could cover the fluttering shrieks coming from Bryant-Denny Stadium.

After each wave of screams crested, a stampede of new sorority members burst onto Colonial Drive and ran to the houses that would become

their homes for the next four

Family and friends looked happy and relieved as they waited in the heat to see their loved ones run out of Bryant-Denny after receiving their

She was lost in the crowd again, but not for long. Soon she was on the porch of her new house — the one her mother was in — taking dozens of group photographs — some formal, some funny.

Maybe she should have gotten her hopes up.

Corolla organizations editor Samantha Poe contributed to this story.

Campus Drive and near ten Hoor have been only 50 to 70 percent full, he said, so commuter parking is available in those decks.

More dining options will open on campus this week, said Gina Johnson, director of auxiliary services. "Taking a little bit of the load off the Ferguson Center is one main thing," Johnson said. Bama Dining also wanted to expand the types of food options available.

A "meat-and-three" diner will open in Doster, she said. A tent on the Quad each Monday and Wednesday will offer food and entertainment. Once the fountains in the Ferguson Plaza are complete, a food cart will open there as well. The Bryant Hall Sports Grill, offering burgers as well as a café, is open. Paty Diner has begun accepting meal plans 24 hours a dav.

The Ferg has extended food service hours this semester. which will be evaluated and adjusted if necessary, said Carl Bacon, director of the Ferguson Center. More tables and chairs have been added to alleviate the lunch rush, he said.

To provide more opportunity for student groups to reserve space in the build-

allows students to reserve common areas, such as tables in the dining area, instead of only allowing them to reserve entire rooms. "For us, it's going to be a real-

ing, the Ferguson Center now

good opportunity to serve a lot more students," Bacon

"Everyone knows it's going to be a little more full." We want to make sure there are things we can do to make everything go a little more smoothly for everyone."

- David Jones

Director of Housing and Residential Communities



UA finance department ranks No. 14 nationally

The UA finance department at the Culverhouse College of Commerce has been ranked 14th and 35th nationally, according to a study done by two professors at Western Kentucky University.

The study was done by Dr. Kam C. Chan and Dr. Samanta B. Thapa, both finance professors at WKU.

The UA finance department was ranked 14th out of 396 programs (top 4 percent) using unweighted numbers (i.e. coauthors get full weight), and 35th out of 396 programs (top 10 percent) using weighted numbers (co-authors get proportionate, not full weight).

The Ticket Office will not be available for student guest swap and/or student ticket pick up on game day. Student tickets should be picked up at the Ticket Office at Coleman Coliseum on the students designated pick up date. Designated pick up dates are as follows:

A - H Wednesday, August 23rd

I - R Thursday, August 24rd

S - Z Friday, August 25th

Student guest swap will only be available at the Ticket Office at Coleman Coliseum Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM the week of each game. Only a student ticket can be exchanged for a student guest ticket. The Ticket Office will not replace any lost or stolen student or student guest tickets.

If a student has an issue with their Action Card on game day they should go to the Action Card Office at 104 Student Services Center for assistance. The Action Card office will be open 2 hours before game time and will remain open until the start of the 4th quarter. If your card is lost or stolen, temporary Action Cards are available from the Action Card Office during those hours. Students are requested to bring their drivers license, or another form of ID, when requesting temporary Action Cards.

The student gates will open 2 hours before kick off. Students must have their Action Card and a student ticket to enter into the student section. Patrons with a student guest ticket may enter into the student sections with out an I.D.



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What's your view? Send letters or guest columns to letters@cw.ua.edu. Students should include name, year, major and daytime phone number. More information is available at the bottom of the page.

Wednesday, August 23, 2006

Our View

Welcome to new year at Capstone

To all the freshmen and transfer students, welcome to the Capstone. And for those of you returning students, welcome back. Where did the summer go?

Here at The CW, we are excited to begin a new school year. We want to give you some tips on making the most out of your college experience in Tuscaloosa.

To the returning students: Be nice to freshmen, because you were once in their shoes.

It's also good to remember that since all freshmen are living on campus, parking is only going to get tighter. Walk whenever you can.

To the newbies: The University might seem a bit overwhelming, and once the hustle and bustle of a new semester passes, you might start feeling homesick. But don't fret — there's plenty to keep you busy.

For starters, there's Get On Board Day. Almost every organization on campus will have a table set up on the Quad, and you will be able to see just how diverse the University really is. You can get information on almost any group, and you'll be able to decide what you want to be involved in. If you're interested in something, there's probably a group for you. If there isn't, you can start one.

For freshmen, there's the Freshman Forum. The SGA has several committees that you can apply to be on, or you can run for office in the spring.

Also this year, the Community Service Center will hold an event called Ripple Effect on Saturday. Several volunteer organizations will be showcasing what they do and how you can get involved. It's never a bad idea to lend someone a helping hand.

Besides groups and organizations, there are tons of things to do. The theatre department will put on many plays throughout the year, the music department sponsors several concerts each month and the dance department will hold recitals. There are numerous art exhibits and book readings, and University Programs will have several special events

And of course, there's Alabama football. You absolutely have to attend a football game before you graduate (just in case you didn't get tickets this year). There's nothing like it anywhere.

Basketball, baseball and gymnastics are just around the corner, too. Each of these sporting events is unique in its own right and always loads of fun. Plus, as a UA student, you get in free. You should also take advantage of the lesser publicized sports such as tennis and volleyball, or get involved yourself by playing intramural sports.

Also, don't forget about us. We'd love to have your input in putting the paper together. Send us your letters or columns, and we'll put them in the paper.

Our View is the consensus of the CW editorial board.

We want issues, not attacks

Someone needs to teach Republicans how to be nice. I'll take one for the team and volunteer to get the job done myself.

Evidently, most members of the Alabama Republican Party are required to unlearn oldfashioned Southern hospitality when they run for public office or take an important leadership role within their party.

Republicans have no idea what the word liberal means, they have no concept of what to do to help Alabama's progress and they don't understand their Democratic counterparts' ideas.

Just a few weeks ago, Gov. Bob Riley and his re-election campaign began airing one of the most disgusting political ads I've ever seen. The clip is 30 seconds long, and the word liberal is used seven times — on average, once every four seconds.

The ad doesn't tell Alabamians why we should vote to keep him in office for four more years. It doesn't say anything about what Riley has done in office or what he will do during the next four years if he wins reelection.

Instead, the ad tries to label Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley as too liberal for Alabama. It also links her to politicians such as Sens. John Kerry and Hillary Clinton. The ad doesn't tell us what liberal means, why being liberal is bad or why being



Jordan Pittman

pittman@cw.ua.edu

associated with Kerry and Clinton is an awful thing, either.

I hope Alabamians will see through this vicious attack. Liberal is not a derogatory word. Look it up in the dictionary.

It means open-minded, freethinking and generous. Those are words I think would make for a great politician.

The ad also takes Baxley's words about Kerry and Clinton out of context. She said she supported and voted for Kerry in the 2004 election (along with most Democrats in Alabama and throughout the country), and she called Clinton an inspiration because she was a working mother and Baxley could identify with her in that respect.

Another fun fact about Riley's attack ad is the people he chose to feature. One of the women in the ad is Darcell Streeter, for-

mer aide to Birmingham City Councilman Bert Miller. She's notorious for using a taxpayerfunded city cell phone for personal calls adding up to 8,000 minutes a month. Also in the ad is Alabama

state Sen. Gerald Dial, a Democrat, representing Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Lee and Randolph counties. Dial has a major bone to pick with the Alabama Democratic Party because many of its prominent members supported his opponent, Kim Benefield, in the primary. Since his defeat, he has tried to tarnish Benefield's image as well as the image of other Democrats in the state.

It's really unfortunate that Riley has chosen to use an attack ad, especially this early in the game. Usually, Alabama gubernatorial races don't heat up until after Labor Day, but he has chosen to get dirty now.

He, along with campaign spokesman Josh Blades and Alabama Republican Party Chairwoman Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, has done nothing but attack Baxley since she won the Democratic primary. Before they labeled her as too liberal, they claimed that she hadn't taken a stance on any issues. They recently decided to try this attack again.

These attacks make it obvious that the people running the Alabama Republican Party

have no idea what they are talking about.

Baxley's Web site has page after page of platform issues she supports, and she has been talking about those positions publicly since she declared her candidacy.

Recently, she unveiled a new nine-point platform full of innovative ideas to pull Alabama into the 21st century along with the rest of the nation.

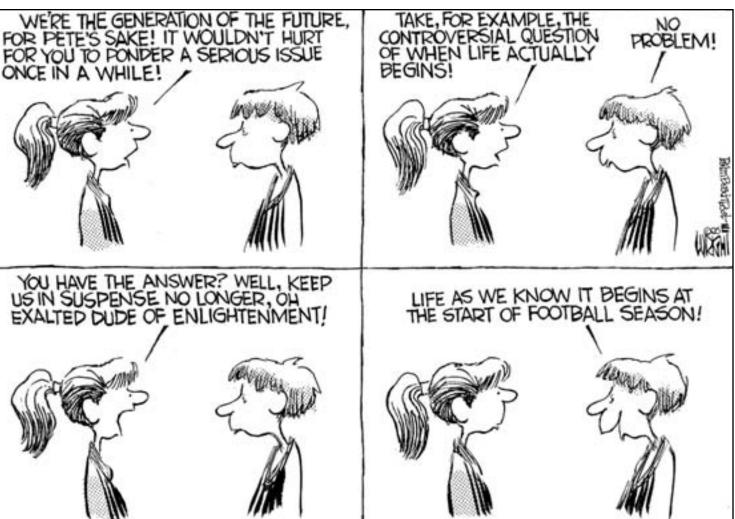
She advocates raising minimum wage, creating an insurance pool so that small businesses can offer health insurance to their employees, getting more Alabamians on the Internet and banning PAC-to-PAC transfers so that campaigns won't be rigged by special interest groups.

Under Riley's watch, the number of portable classrooms is growing, and more than 50 percent of Alabama's children are without health insurance.

Lucy Baxley is addressing these issues while Bob Riley spends millions on attack ads. It seems like the choice for voters in November is pretty clear.

I hoped this race would be a race about issues. Stop the attacks. Stop the mudslinging. Let's just hear what you want to do for Alabama.

Jordan Pittman is opinions editor of The Crimson White. His column appears on Wednesdays.



KRT Campus

SGA makes several plans for the upcoming fall season

By Justice Smyth

As we begin the school year, I am excited to say that we are fulfilling our three main goals — responsibility, leadership and legacy — that I have pledged to build my administration around.

I am excited to get to work, and I want to welcome everyone back and to let you know what we have been up to this summer. The SGA has been busy for the entire vacation, making sure that students can enjoy a safe and fun year.

As freshmen arrive on campus, I want to be the first to welcome you and talk about one of the most exciting opportunities that we have created in recent years.

This year the SGA has created a First Year Council

to address the needs and concerns of all first-year students. Applications are available now and can be picked up outside the SGA office or on our newly redesigned Web site at sga.ua.edu.

First Year Council applications are due Sept. 14, and all SGA committee member applications are due Sept. 8. I encourage all students to apply for First Year Council and all of our executive committees.

Since taking office this past April, my staff and I have been hard at work on initiatives that will help all students. The SGA was the driving force behind the new 24/7 study space in Julia Tutwiler Hall. This will help all students who need a quiet place to study any time of the day or night.

I would like to thank Executive Vice President Judy Bonner as well as Vice President for Student Affairs Margaret King and the Student Leaders Council for their leadership and support of this important student initiative.

One of my major campaign promises was to make sure that all students are safe while here at the University and in the surrounding areas. This summer the SGA and city of Tuscaloosa found 12 new areas off campus that are going to get street lights.

The city is also replacing all of the globes and bulbs on existing street lights to produce brighter light to help keep UA students safer. I would like to thank Mayor Walt Maddox and Reginald Kennedy with

TDOT for their help with this important project.

important project.

In April when I was campaigning to lead the student body, I promised to implement a new testing strategy. Tests that are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday can only be given on the first and third weeks of the month. Tests that are on Tuesday and Thursday can only be given on the second and fourth weeks of the month. I am pleased to let the students know that this has become a reality.

We are launching a pilot program this year in the College of Human Environmental Sciences to see how well it will help students. Michael Noyes, vice president of academic affairs, has been hard at work to help make this a reality.

The SGA is also launching a calculator rental program. If you need a calculator for a class, you will soon be able to rent one in the SGA office for free, thanks to a generous donation of calculators from the University Supply Store. More information will be available to you as the finer details of these exciting new SGA initiatives are ironed out.

This summer, I have also made some key appointments to important positions. Kristian Collins will serve the SGA as its attorney general for judicial affairs, and Nick Pourhassan will serve as attorney general for governmental affairs. They will serve the SGA and the student body well, and I expect great things from them.

I have also appointed Chip Groeschell as our new treasurer, and we are excited to have him aboard.

You should expect nothing but the best from the SGA, and that is what we are going to deliver this year. The individuals in this office are some of the brightest, most energetic people that have ever been in here, and I am proud to say that I work with them.

I want you to know that my door is always open to you. I want to be the most proactive president ever, and I want you to know that I will do what I can to help you enjoy this year at the Capstone.

Together we can lay the foundation for another wonderful 175 years.

Justice Smyth is SGA president.

The Crimson White Editorial Board

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The Crimson White welcomes your view on the issues. Letters to the editor must be less than 300 words and guest columns less than 700. Send submissions to letters@cw.ua.edu. Submissions must include the author's name and daytime phone number. Phone numbers are for verification and will not be published. Students should also include their year in school and major. For more information, call 348-6144 or e-mail letters@cw.ua.edu. The CW reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Outdoor Action builds wetland habitat

New College and Honors freshmen learn about environment

By Ellen Burke Assistant Student Life Editor burke@cw.ua.edu

The intense heat last week wasn't enough to inhibit the creation of a scenic wetland environment, complete with a pond, garden and observation deck, in the UA Arboretum.

For one week, students such as Joni Corbin sweated in the deep woods while building an educational habitat.

The Arboretum, which is hidden behind a dirt road and black gate, was chosen to help New College and Honors College freshmen bond while learning about the environment, said Frances Oneal, assistant director of the UA Honors Program.

Outdoor Action, a service program designed to educate students on the environment, began two years ago from Alabama Action, a program focusing on poverty education. In addition to helping students develop an appreciation for the environment by completing community service projects, Outdoor Action was designed to help incoming students meet friends in their college, Oneal said.

Joni Corbin, a freshman majoring in civil engineering, said she already had an appreciation for the environment, but the program showed her the "diversity that can exist in nature."

She said most people casually look at trees and plants, but through the program, she learned how different they all really are.

Oneal said a wetland habitat is important because invasive species such as kudzu and English ivy make it hard for native species to thrive.

"There needs to be variety in the woods," she said.

Blake Barnes, a senior in New College and co-director of Outdoor Action, said a wetland is important because it helps filter pollutants.

"A wetland is like nature's coffee filter," he said.

Jackie Hartmann, a junior majoring in finance, said she joined Outdoor Action because "it's a good way to help the University and do something that will last."

She said the program taught her about conservation and the environment.

"The smallest things you do affect so many other people," she said. "Even picking up trash can help."

Many students, such as Tara Mitchell, a co-director of Outdoor Action and a junior majoring in finance and premed, said they don't view the program as purely education-

She said the program not only teaches students about the environment but also helps "ease people into college."

The program makes it easy to meet friends, Mitchell said.

"It's nice to see people you know walking around the Quad when you're new to the school," she said.

While the program is aimed at teaching students about the environment and helping them make friends before school starts, Mitchell said the program will also show people there are scenic places in and



CW/ Ellen Bui

Kyle Zigelsky, a freshman majoring in marine science, Patrick Montgomery, a freshman majoring in general health, and David Holt, a senior majoring in chemical and biological engineering, build a deck for Outdoor Action's service project at the UA Arboretum.

around Tuscaloosa.

"So many people think of Tuscaloosa only as a big city, so they don't know we have other things to see," she said. The Arboretum is open from 8 a.m. until sunset and is open to the public throughout the

Saving Jane headlines Welcome Back Concert

Black Violin also scheduled to perform at concert

By Chandler Myers Staff Reporter

If students want to see famous bands play during the Welcome Back Concert, they might have to consider other options such as paying for a portion of the entertainment themselves, said Brett Harmon, president of University Programs.

Students have been anxiously waiting for this year's performers, and the University has scheduled Saving Jane and Black Violin. Many students have heard of Saving Jane, but, when asked, can't remember their songs. Even more students said they have not heard of the hip-hop violinists Black Violin.

UP has withstood pressure for the artists booked for recent Homecoming concerts, with some students complaining that they want to hear more popular artists than the ones that have come to campus.

Harmon said University

Programs is more than willing to book acts that students want to see but the problem is with UP's budget and the high price of many acts. Ticket sales could help pay for the artists or bands that students would enjoy watching, he said. UP has charged for tickets in past years, he said.

"I know there have been some students that have expressed willingness to pay for a ticket to see a larger performer that we could not afford on our own," Harmon said. "One idea I have is to go out on a limb and charge five or 10 dollars for a ticket and

bring someone we normally would not be able to afford."

Despite complaints, last year's show had four or five thousand people in attendance, he said he expects the same if not more for this year's concert.

Last year the Graham Colton Band and Coolio played. Coolio was a last-minute replacement when it was announced that the originally booked artist Lil' Scrappy wouldn't be coming.

Stacey Wells, a junior majoring in Spanish, said she would be attending this year's show because it is a great way to get together with friends and have

a good time.

Last year, she said, many people left after they heard one of Coolio's popular songs.

"It wasn't as great as everyone expected it to be because one of the performers backed out and a lot of people came but left early. It seemed like if the other artist had not canceled, it would have been a bigger turnout," Wells said.

Harmon's idea of charging a ticket price does not seem to bother some students because they agree that it would help bring larger performers to the Capstone.

Chase Higginbotham, a sophomore majoring in

sports broadcasting, said he has heard of Saving Jane but does not know of Black Violin, though he might attend the

But not all students had complaints about UP's concert booking performance. Justin Kline, a sophomore majoring in business, said UP has been doing a good job.

"They could try to get some bigger names, but at least they are getting somebody," he said.

The concert is being held at the Riverside crosswalk Saturday from 7 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.

FALL 2006 Textbook Price Comparisons

Dept/Course	the College Store	Supe Store	Alabama Bookstore	Off-Campus Store
ANT 100	74.75 used	106.75 new	100.00 new	103.25 new
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APR 231	73.00 used	81.15 used	79.20 used	73.15 used
ARH 252	66.75 used	68.55 used	85.65 new	67.50 used
BSC 114	219.75 new package	234.70 new package	220.70 new package	N/A
CJ 100	71.75 used	102.35 new	95.95 new	74.65 used
COM 123	47.25 used	56.70 used	55.40 used	47.55 used
CSM 204	87.50 used	104.70 used	130.35 new	88.00 used
EN 249	52.75 used	55.05 used	68.75 new	N/A
FI 301	99.25 used	110.55 used	103.65 used	99.40 used
GY 105	82.25 used	86.05 used	82.30 used	110.00 new
HPE 199	56.50 new	N/A	56.99 new	N/A
MGT 300	44.95 used	52.5 used	49.25 used	46.15 used
MKT 300	79.25 used/104.95 new	112.70 new	105.65 new	109.00 new
OM 300	52.50 used value ed.	70.05 used	65.65 used	52.90 used

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Recruiting top students at cost

Colleges rope academic thoroughbreds, leaving poor behind, experts say

By Nicholas Beadle

■ beadle@cw.ua.edu

Locked in a never ending battle for students, money and prestige, public universities — including the Capstone — are hurling scholarships to lure top academic prospects and inch up college rankings, such as the U.S. News and World Report list released

But with many top recruits coming from affluent areas, some say students from poorer areas lose out as universities race for larger and presumptively better student bodies.

Rankings such as U.S. ews' "America's Best News' Colleges" and the credibility they can assign have become vital pieces in the recruiting game, said Barmak Nassirian, associate executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

U.S. News' list hoists up universities' rife with top high school performers and their high entrance test scores. That gives schools a "perverse incentive" to focus recruitment in areas that churn out National Merit Scholars and other top students, Nassirian

National Merit Scholarship Program names roughly 8,200 scholars each year. It whittles the list from the thousands of high school juniors who perform well on the PSAT, a test similar to the SAT college entrance exam. Personal essays and recommendations help determine the list of finalists.

Merit scholars at the University get four years of tuition and housing, laptops and \$6,000 for summer study, books and other expenses. Comparatively, roughly 80 percent of merit scholars' tuition is covered at West Virginia University, and they receive thousands toward housing and stipends for overseas study.

UA aims to swell its enrollment by 6,000 to 28,000 in 2013. Because of a stagnant high school enrollment and graduation rate in Alabama, the University targets Florida, Georgia and Texas, states with By the numbers National Merit Scholar Recruitment

National Merit Scholars 8200 each year

Merit scholars enrolled at UA in 2004-05

Merit scholars enrolled at 72 UA in 2005-06

populations in large affluent

The University ranked 13th among public universities for recently enrolled merit scholars in 2005, when it enrolled 72. Its 145 total merit scholars, black National Achievement Scholars and National Hispanic Scholars last year was a 50 percent increase from 2004-05. Officials expect an even greater number of those students to start fall classes

The Capstone climbed 11 spots in this year's U.S. News rankings, tying Auburn University, the University Tennessee and four other schools as the nation's 39thbest public university.

Athletics-style recruitment

UA President Robert Witt said the University's aggressive recruitment of merit scholars, though poohpoohed by leadership at some other Alabama colleges, is integral to expanding enrollment. Where those students go, he said, their classmates are likely to follow.

To get those students, the University must compete with schools that already thrive off top academic talent. The University of Oklahoma has an office devoted solely to recruiting and retaining merit scholars. Each year the school mails campus visit invitations to all of the roughly 16,000 national merit semifinalists, consistently netting enough to be one of the top 20 recruiters of those students.

OU expects to enroll 136 merit scholars this fall.

To ward off competition. UA academic recruiters now use a staple of their athletic counterparts: offer the money upfront and reel the student

"They do things right when it comes to recruiting," said for the College of Engineering,



was a National Merit Scholar.

500-strong freshman class today. Two years ago there were less than 300 students in engineering.

"If the University of Alabama was looking for a top quarterback, I don't think they would say they were interested in you and, 'We'll let you know in March that we'll pay for it," he said.

The University aggressively offers scholarship packages based on blanket standards for grades and test scores, even if it doesn't have the money to pay for them. If recruiters cast the net too wide, officials seek patronage, usually from alumni, to make up for the shortfall in scholarship cash.

"Maybe some day the light will turn off on that, but so far it's working," Whitaker said.

Widening education gap?

Schools' reliance on test scores and automatic cash to fill their ranks is widening Kevin Whitaker, associate the socioeconomic gap poordean for academic programs er students must cross when they head to college, said ripe — and growing — youth which will start a more than David Breneman, University

of Virginia education dean and the former president of Michigan's Kalamazoo College.

ApaperbyCornellUniversity and University of Minnesota professors released in June 2005 found that, as campuses increased merit scholar recruitment, the number of students who received federal Pell grants, aid based on financial need, decreased.

High school graduates from wealthier communities, Breneman said, are more likely to have spent their teens being coached on how to drive up entrance test scores and breeze through college admissions. That leads schools desperate for top students to spend the glut of their scholarship on students who do not need the help, he

And if students head to a school purely for money, he said they are unlikely to be good alumni — if they do not transfer first.

"You would be better off would really make a difference," Breneman said.

But many schools say they have no choice. They are trying to gather the resources they need to survive and carry out their academic missions as state financial crises have clipped funding for universities in recent years, Nassirian said. Capturing a crop of top-ranking students makes schools more apt to climb the rankings, bring in more students and nab prestige and cash for research and other projects.

"They're doing it because they are desperate for resources to do the right things," Nassirian said. "Nobody's doing anything evil, but the system as a whole is probably not doing right by the

Try to get both of them'

Witt attested the Capstone balances its out-of-state recruiting in affluent areas with in-state recruiting. He said he makes several vistaking your scarce resources its to rural Alabama schools and putting it on kids that it each year. "It's a very balanced effort," he said.

And with the blanket the food chain," he said.

scholarship standards, the University does not have to choose between poor and rich students, Whitaker said.

"Try to get both of them," he said. "That's been our approach."

Craig Hayes, an OU recruitment official, said the dozens of merit scholars his school pulls in each year typically span a wide social and economic range.

"We're not talking about the most affluent members of our society," he said. "Some students who have achieved at the highest of levels have no parent support and qualify for Pell support."

Still, "there is no easy answer" to making sure those from poorer backgrounds get in with so much emphasis on catching top performers, said Brenda Thompson, WVU's assistant vice president for enrollment management.

But a school that chooses to recruit more in areas that produce fewer merit scholars and top students will likely find itself falling behind — or under, Nassirian said.

"Whatever moves you up

States gear up to stop drunk driving fatalities

ROCKVILLE, Md. — If you're used to having a few beers and getting behind the wheel, the next three weeks will be especially dangerous for you.

Automobile safety leaders announced Wednesday that they're starting a double-barreled police and advertising campaign between now and Labor Day to combat drunk

The move follows new numbers that show almost no decline in the number of highway deaths involving alcohol last year — in fact, almost none in a decade — despite a toughening of the legal definition of intoxication and some increased policing.

Nicole Nason, administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said she thinks that's because drunk driving still is seen as "a social crime" rather than "a deadly

This new campaign will emphasize that drinking and driving can get you arrested, Nason said. That's in contrast to previous campaigns that focused on responsible drinking and designated drivers.

Over 11,000 state and local police forces across the country have agreed to increase patrols and sobriety checkpoints between now and Labor Day, according to Nason. In addition, NHTSA will air \$11

million in television and radio ads targeting males ages 21 to 34, the likeliest to drink and drive.

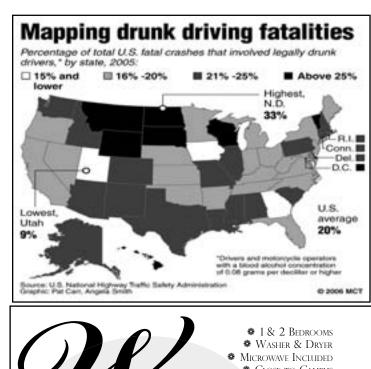
The combination of a big ad campaign and increased enforcement makes this "the largest ever national crackdown on drunk driving," Nason said. Alcohol-caused car crash

deaths were down in 23 states and up in 27 states last year, according to statistics released Wednesday. The biggest successes were in Utah (down 50 percent), Maryland (down 34 percent), Rhode Island (down 24 percent), Massachusetts (down 21 percent) and Oregon (down 19 percent).

Drunk-driving increased most in Hawaii (up 21 percent), the District of Columbia (up 31 percent), North Dakota (up 33 percent), Delaware (up 36 percent) and Vermont (up 40 percent).

"It's time for this country to stop just saying, `Oh, that's old Joe down at the bar, he had one too many gins." said Lt. Col. Jim Champagne, Chairman of the Governors Highway Safety Association, a nonprofit group focused on promoting safety

Champagne, a lieutenant colonel in the Louisiana State Police, promised the upcoming crackdown would involve the "highest concentration of law enforcement officers.







Changes afoot at 90.7 The Capstone

Station to broadcast newer music, specialty shows

By Laura Pitts Senior Entertainment Reporter

Students returning to campus will be hearing new music, new shows and a whole new name when they turn their radios to WVUA 90.7 FM.

Starting this fall, University's campus radio station will be changing its name from New Rock 90.7 to 90.7 The Capstone.

"For years this station has been separated from the University not only in look but in sound," said Chad Anderson, station manager for The Capstone.

Anderson said the idea to change the name has been in the works for some time but that it was just a matter of getting ideas together and finding a new focus for the station.

"When I look at our old logos, I realize how separate the station has been from other organizations on campus," said Anderson. "Our colors had nothing to do with the University. They were blue and white, which made us look like Kentucky. At least now we have the correct colors.

When the initial idea was brought up to change the station's name, 90.7 allowed listeners to e-mail suggestions for the new name.

'We ran through a couple of names for the station, one being 90.7 The Voice," he said.

Anderson, along with the rest of the 90.7 staff, agreed that the new name of the station should have a direct link to the

"Anywhere in town you can say, 'the Capstone,' and people automatically think University of Alabama," he said. "It's a common word that has a lot of meaning to it. It was a perfect

James Hardy, a sportscaster for 90.7, said that changing the name of the station will not only be a way to emphasize music but athletics as well.

"90.7 is the exclusive home for play-by-play coverage for all UA softball, volleyball, soccer and gymnastics events. We even

Andre Thomas, a junior majoring in business, and Marcus Brown, a junior majoring in telecommunication and film, DJ on New Rock 90.7 last year. The station recently changed its name to 90.7 The Capstone.

cover men and women's basketball and a pre-game show for football. Changing the station name to something commonly associated with the University

is a great way to pull in students and alumni," said Hardy, host of The Capstone's sports talk show "Rock and Jock."

For years, 90.7 has been

home to mostly independentlabeled (indie) music.

'The independent-labeled bands are basically newer bands that are trying to get started in the industry," Anderson said. Now, 90.7 FM will enable

listeners to hear more mainstream artists that they are

"Think of it as the music you hear on The X @ 100.5," Anderson said of the Birmingham-based rock station. "The station has always been alternative rock and classic rock, but in the past the alternative and even some of the classic was from independently labeled artists."

Anderson said there will still be some indie music played during specialty shows.

We don't want to get rid of the indie music played on the station. We just want to mix both indie and mainstream artists together to better fit our listeners."

Regular hours for listeners to hear all of their favorite artists will be every day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Specialty shows will broadcast every night starting

On Sunday mornings, 90.7 will host a gospel show around 10 a.m., and during the week there will be a hip-hop show and a heavy metal show.

interests.

So here we are, at the beginning of a new year, with a new staff at The Crimson White, and among that staff, yours truly starts the job as entertainment

The big question is; Do I know enough about this campus, its students and their myriad interests to successfully cover everything?

Probably not, but that's why I have backup at The CW, right? Surely the Entertainment staff knows pretty much everything we need to cover?

The answer, again, is no.

Incredible

Selection

job to monitor the interests of the students as a whole, we are sometimes the furthest removed from the collected body.

I know I am. Sure, I could cover everything I want to cover in The CW, but I guarantee that this would not be anything any of you wanted to read — it'd be a desk exclusively devoted to the merits of independent films, comic books and weird British music.

That's not to say that you won't see any of these things in the Entertainment section. That's almost a guarantee; in fact, I'll be doing a comic book column occasionally.

But the point of all this is, finally: No amount of staff mem-

support of the student body. This is your Entertainment section, and in the end, I'm working for all of you.

Does that require of you any obligation? Well ... yes and no. I'm not twisting anyone's arm to join the CW staff (though it's certainly a rewarding job). However — and this is a big deal — this job will be a lot easier, and the paper will be of a much higher quality, if the doors of communication are open between you and I.

By all means, shoot me an e-mail. Let me know what you think of the Entertainment sec-

Let me know what you want to see covered. Tell me about cool stuff going on around campus or the

Stop the Hate

Corey Craft

craft@cw.ua.edu

Tuscaloosa area. If you're involved in a cool very good chance that we'll get

event, I want to hear from you. If you're in a band, let's hear your stuff. There is nothing more exciting, I think, than getting recognized for doing your good work, and this is an outlet in which that can hap-

So please, please drop me an e-mail at craft@cw.ua. edu. Phil Owen is the assistant entertainment editor, and he's a pretty good guy — not nearly as intimidating as he looks. Drop him an e-mail at owen@cw.ua.edu. There's a

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back to you.

So here's to this year being an extraordinary, bountiful year at the Entertainment desk. I think it will be. Today and in the next few weeks, we've got a wide variety of stories — including, but not limited to: "American Idol," restaurant coverage, gameday fashion, independent film, local music and next-gen DVD players — coming your

We'll do our part to cover it as best we can, as we always try; but don't forget to stay in

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NUMBER

"Sweet Home words to Alabama" so that I could participate in a joyous, state-pride crowd song.

I didn't sleep Sunday night and left Tuscaloosa for impending doom around 2 a.m.

Though a fair amount of people were already lined up when I got to the BJCC at 2:45 a.m., not much conversation or singing could be heard. I'm not sure whether the relative silence can be attributed to the early time or the anticipation of auditioning, but by 3:30, people were much more lively (in a terrible, terrible way).

As more "Idol" potentials arrived, I heard more chatter and spontaneous outbursts of singing, including renditions of the Righteous Brothers' "Unchained Melody" Mariah Carey's "Hero.

An "Idol" official speaking through a megaphone walked along the line of auditioners several times during the next couple of hours, reminding everyone they would need their wristband, ticket, IDs and release form.

When he walked around at 3:40, he told everyone to be "patient and courteous," and he explained that our places in line were not important, as auditioners would be called by the section number on the seat tickets we were given.

Waiting in line, and really the entire audition process, was one of the oddest experiences I've had — people took turns singing for each other, expecting applause and praise. Instead of singing actual songs, they should have just put the words, "Ah! I'm an attention whore! Listen to me and tell me how wonderful I am!" to a

A girl sitting in a group a few feet away from me was doing her best to sing everyone to death. She was interrupted by another girl, and they had a battle over who could sing

A girl closer to the front insisted on singing over and over again. After she paused for praise one time, a guy behind me said, "Why are they clapping for her?" These



Thousands of "American Idol" hopefuls wait in a parking lot for auditions at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex before sunrise Monday. Birmingham is one of seven audition sites for the show's sixth season.

people were capable of giving fake support, but it was obvious they were all eager to win and wouldn't hide their true contempt for their competi-

A couple of guys who had been mocking the singers took their turn and sang "This Little Light of Mine" in an obviously joking way. Nobody got the hint, though.

The lengths some people went to get to the auditions amazes me. I heard a guy talking about how he forgot his release form, so he borrowed someone else's, took it to Office Max, folded it to block the writing that was already there, wrote in the necessary information, came back and returned the original release

Another couple of guys I met traveled "13 hours" from Virginia Beach. One was trying out, and Mike E. was his guest. Mike went to get a pair of sunglasses for his friend because they didn't realize that was a requirement.

Mike didn't seem confident about the likelihood of his friend being asked back for the second round. He said that though his friend is talented, he thinks the audition process is "kind of messed up."

"The sad thing about it is the first people you audition for is the producers," Mike said.

I heard some interesting conversations while waiting, including song choice advice, favorite Simon Cowell quotes, who should have won in the past seasons and a conspiracy theory about finalists being chosen independently from any of the auditions.

To appease the crowd during the ridiculously long wait, items promoting Fox TV shows were passed out. I wasn't lucky enough to get anything, and I really had my eye on the "Vanished" compact and the "'Til Death" stress ball.

Soon after 5 a.m., the doors were opened and the first several people in line were allowed to enter the arena. The line moved slowly, and I didn't get in until just shy of 6:30.

We were warned soon after I sat in my seat that we would have to hear "Sweet Home Alabama" nonstop for the next few hours. I immediately got up to wander around, as to avoid hearing the song so loudly. I found people lined up in front of Gourmet Grill and The Dog House getting their breakfast of nachos, French fries, hamburgers and hot dogs.

Still, only a small percentage of people had been let in, and the rest got to stand on the steps outside the arena in the smoldering, humid heat. I wish

I hadn't gotten in line as early as I did that morning, because I missed out on making some fantastic promotional videos with Fox 6. I watched gloomily through the window as the enthusiastic crowd got to raise

the roof with Ryan Seacrest. Around 8:45 a.m., the remaining "Idol" hopefuls were allowed to enter the arena. By this time I'd heard "Sweet Home Alabama" more times than Lynyrd Skynyrd has, and it didn't stop until 9:35.

Between 9:10 and 9:35 a guy named Ron stood on the arena floor and taught the crowd "Sweet Home Alabama" through a microphone, at which point I zoned out.

Then Ron taught the crowd several awesome cheers: "Ruben, Bo, Taylor and me I'm the next 'American Idol!' Woooooo!"; "I'm the next 'American Idol!' Woooooo!"; "Birmingham — where idols are born! Woooooo!"; and "Welcome to the two-oh-five! Woooooo!"

Patrick, a friendly, caring producer, took the floor and told us about the specifics of

the audition process. He said the "giant door" was designated for losers and the "tiny door" was for winners.

Fourteen tables were set up on the floor of the arena, and two producers would sit at each one to judge four people in a line at a time. We were instructed to have two songs ready, but he said we would probably only have time to sing a verse and the chorus of one. If the producers deemed us worthy, we would be asked to come back two weeks later to audition for the three famous iudges.

He stressed that complaints about "Idol" should be done in front of the cameras. "The camera is here for you," Patrick said.

The final request Patrick made was for no one to sing Etta James' "At Last" unless they could do it extremely well. He said the producers don't want to hear it butchered anymore, as it's the most overdone

Auditions officially began at 10:25 with section 31. I was in section 23 and had to wait for an hour-and-a-half for my section to be called.

When my section was finally asked to go down to the floor, everyone eagerly jumped up and began practicing quietly to themselves and offering false encouraging words to each

The best thing I heard was some chick talking to her mom: "OMG, Mom! Is my hat at the right angle? I need it to cast a shadow on this much of my eye. I'm so excited — they're going to love it when I whip off my hat!"

A lady took my release form, which made me agree to sell my soul to Fox, and I approached table five.

Two girls sang before me, both of whom were very good.

I sang the last verse of Paul Simon's "American Tune" for a couple of stone-faced producers. They weren't impressed by anyone in my group and, without hesitation, sent us all to have the wristbands snipped

Guess they couldn't use us to sell Ford trucks or Cingular phones.









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Kathleen

Buccleugh

Help us to expand our coverage

By Corey Craft Entertainment Editor ■ craft@cw.ua.edu

The Entertainment section, by its very nature, is an eclectic desk. It's safe to say as well that the interests of college students during their leisure time run the gamut — movies, music, beer, fashion, obnoxious bass amplifiers, chicken wings, video games and comic books. The list can go on and

So if someone is to create a successful college Entertainment section, he has to be exposed to many of these

See **ENTERTAIN**, Page 7

Quest to become 'Idol' chaotic

"Idol" chatter

What to bring: Ticket and wristband intact on wrist (protect it by covering it in plastic wrap), a pair of sunglasses, release form, IDs

What not to bring: Food, drinks, illegal drugs, alcohol, fireworks, animals, candles

Other: Prepare two songs to sing a cappella, be prepared to participate in crowd songs and crowd shots, learn words to "Sweet Home Alabama"

By Kathleen Buccleugh Copy Editor ■ buccleugh@cw.ua.edu

"American Idol," one of the

most popular television shows on the air, has made a practical industry out of its quest to find the brightest talent in the country. Since two past winners and finalists have come from Birmingham, for its sixth season the show brought auditions to Alabama at the Birmingham-

Jefferson Convention Complex. I decided to brave the likely mob and audition, but I discovered that I wasn't quite prepared for the ensuing insanity.

I woke up Saturday at 4:30 a.m. to make my way to the

four hours waiting to register. This year, "Idol" registration was held during the two days prior to auditions. Birmingham registration began at 6 a.m.

Saturday and continued through Monday morning right before auditions.

According to the Web site, no camping would be allowed at any of the venues this year, but I'm certain people slept outside overnight. Maybe they just didn't use tents.

After waiting for four hours, registration took around 20 seconds. The person who registered me didn't even look at my two forms of ID — she just asked how old I am, slapped a gray band of death on my wrist, handed me some papers filled with

a seat ticket and sent me on choice to sing a cappella, with mv wav.

The papers asked me to bring a pair of sunglasses, without any explanation as to why I would need them, and said I

"important information" and would need two songs of my the advice to not ask the producers which songs to choose. I was forewarned to learn the

See **IDOL**, Page 8





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Samford downs Tide in preseason scrimmage

By Dave Honigsberg Senior Sports Reporter ■ honigsberg@cw.ua.edu

The Alabama women's soccer team lost its preseason scrimmage to the Samford Bulldogs 1-0 Saturday after Samford's Kim Matthews scored the game-winning goal 62:19 minutes into the match.

Matthews' shot came from the left wing position and was deflected off Crimson Tide defender Hayley MacDonald's leg before finding the back of

the net to clinch the scrimmage victory for the Bulldogs.

"I think this team has a chance to do really great things," head coach Don Staley said. "Let's not forget that every single game from this point out is going to be a nail-bitter. There's no guaranteed wins on the schedule."

The Tide's offense struggled the entire game. In her first game as a defender after moving from midfield, MacDonald made terrific defensive play after play, Staley said.

Alabama's best chance to score came midway though the second half when junior forward Jordan O'Banion had one defender to beat, and her shot missed the net by mere inches.

'We need to increase our speed of play," O'Banion said. "Once one of us speeds things up, I think we'll speed things up as a team and hopefully get some goals and play better next time."

Most of Alabama's scoring chances came off five corner kicks, two of which came in the closing seconds of the match.

The Tide is still adjusting to MacDonald as the center defender.

"I've moved from a central mid-position where obviously you're one of the main people on the field and you have to control both defensive and offensive shifts and plays," she said. "I've been trying to emulate that in the back."

The team had to compensate for injured players. Just

16 players played in the game, including five players coming off the bench.

"We have a lot of injuries," Staley said. "I didn't say that last year. I just kept blinding it. We're going to be very thin this

"So that means that they're going to have to work harder as a collective group, and people on the bench will be expected to play, and they're going to have to step up."

The scrimmage did serve to the Tide's advantage, Staley

said, because Samford made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament last sea-

"This is what we needed," Staley said. "This is what

scrimmage games are for."

The 2006 season officially starts Friday when the Tide travels to Nashville to take on Denver in the Vanderbilt Tournament.

The Tide's SEC schedule begins when Alabama travels to Vanderbilt on Sept. 29.

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Sports

FOOTBALL

Tide ends preseason camp with scrimmage



Alabama freshman defensive back Marquis Johnson takes down wide receiver Nikita Stover during the Crimson Tide's final preseason scrimmage Tuesday.

By Jessie Patterson Sports Editor ■ patterson@cw.ua.edu

The Alabama football team concluded its preseason training camp Tuesday with a 63-play scrimmage.

Sophomore quarterback John Parker Wilson was 4-of-7 passing for 86 yards in the scrimmage, while senior quarterback Marc Guillon completed 5 of 13 for 39 yards and one interception.

"Marc's really had a good week with a good scrimmage last week," head coach Mike Shula said. "He just didn't have as much help as maybe he could have had to make some plays, but his thought process has been good.

"I thought our first offense on the first drive looked good, moved the ball and overcame a penalty in the plus territory, but we had some mistakes after that."

Freshman running back Ali Sharrief led the squad with 35 yards rushing on

Overall, Shula said the first-team defense looked good. Junior defensive lineman Wallace Gilberry had two tackles, including a sack, while Keith Saunders added three tackles and a sack

Marcel Stamps, a sophomore linebacker, led the defense with five tackles in the Tide's third and final preseason

Shula and the Tide wrapped up twoa-day workouts on Monday with a twoand-a-half hour workout in full pads in the morning followed by a second

practice at Bryant-Denny Stadium that

Senior running back Ken Darby returned to practice Sunday night after missing multiple practices. He had been excused from the team for personal rea-

"Ken was back, and we were glad to have him back," Shula said. "He got a bruised knee early in practice, but he came back out, and I think he should be fine."

Darby, who ranks seventh on Alabama's all-time rushing list, was named to the Walter Camp Foundation Player of the Year Watch List on Friday. He is 1,077 yards away from breaking the

Tide assistant coach injured, undergoes surgery

Along with 11 players sidelined due to injuries in Friday's practice, Alabama receivers coach Charlie Harbison was added to the Tide's injury list.

Harbison underwent successful surgery Friday to repair a ruptured patella, which he injured during Thursday's

"[Coach Harbison] is in recovery," Shula said. "I think there were more guys in the training room around him yesterday than anyone else."

Senior sports reporter Scott Latta contributed to this report.

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