

The Crimson White

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Saban signs three-year extension

By Spencer White
Assistant Sports Editor

Alabama head coach Nick Saban has agreed to a three-year contract extension that will have the 2008 Home Depot National Coach of the Year at the Capstone through 2017, according to a UA news release.

"Coach Saban has impressively led the Alabama football program back to national prominence in a short period of time," said Athletics Director Mal Moore in a written statement.

"That success has been evident in all facets — on-field results, his embrace of Alabama's athletics and academics culture, recruiting, and community service," Moore said. "In every way, coach Saban has positioned our program among college football's elite ... this contract extension is a clear statement of our mutual commitment to building on the foundation he has established."

The extension will be effective immediately, pending approval by the UA System Board of Trustees.

For Tide fans across the state and the country, the news of Saban's extension will serve to ease any lingering doubts as to the permanence of Saban's stay at the Capstone. Saban himself addressed his feelings on the matter in a news release.

"Terry and I are pleased and happy that the University of Alabama has offered us an extension to our original contract," Saban said. "Our acceptance of the extension expresses our commitment to the University of Alabama for the rest of our coaching career.

"Dr. Witt and the University community have been tremendous in terms of their cooperation in rebuilding the football program ... We greatly appreciate the time, effort, and dedication of everyone involved with our football program, as well as all the positive energy our fans have demonstrated since we've been in Tuscaloosa."

Saban took a Tide program that had seen only one winning season in four years previous to his arrival and within two years had Alabama at the top of the college football world, as the 2008 Crimson Tide held

the No. 1 ranking in both polls for five weeks en route to an undefeated regular season.

It was the first time Alabama had started a season 12-0 since the 1992 national championship squad coached by Gene Stallings.

The Tide will begin its third season under Saban Saturday in Atlanta, as Alabama locks horns with the Virginia Tech Hokies in the nationally televised Chick-fil-A College Kickoff.



Research VP selected

Hope named assistant VP for research

By Danielle Drago
Staff Reporter

Cynthia Hope has been named the new UA assistant vice president for research.

Hope, previously the director of the office for sponsored programs within the Office for Research, said she is excited about the prospects her new position will offer.

"I think the University is in a great position," Hope said. "Being a predominantly undergraduate institution, we have a lot of the qualities that those institutions don't have that make part of being a university exciting. You really get to see the way research impacts the instruction mission and not just from a theoretical standpoint, you see it in action."

In addition to her 10 years of service at the University, Hope has worked within the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the areas of costing, grant and contract accounting, in addition to financial accounting and reporting, according to a UA news release.

Hope gained experience on a national level when she served as workshop faculty, presenter, committee member and regional officer in the National Council of University Research Administrators. Hope currently serves as the administrative representative for the University in the Federal Demonstration Partnership and is an active member of the Council on Governmental Relations.

Hope said her experience would be beneficial to her new position.

"All along the way I've benefitted from that experience and I've been involved in many different areas of the administration and research and I also stayed very involved at a national level and hopefully come to the office. I think through my experience and through my national involvement it puts the University in a good position to be proactive instead of reactive," Hope said.

As a participant in undergraduate research during her senior year at the University, all the while pursuing a degree in psychology, Hope said she knows firsthand how the research process affects undergraduates.

"As an undergraduate benefitting from the research enterprise, you have absolutely no idea the large system and control that are all in place to make that happen. In a way that's good that we're taking care of our students, that they get that benefit without the work. They just get to be a part of it and learn, and hopefully go forward and appreciate it themselves," Hope said.

Hope said seeing the program grow is one of her main goals for the upcoming year.

"My goal is to further facilitate the faculty's research and other sponsored activities. We are a service office and although there are



Cynthia Hope

Greekfest rocks fraternity row

By Hannah Marcum
Staff Writer

The Greek community and many UA students were partying in full force Saturday night during the second annual Greekfest. Fraternity row was blocked off to allow thousands to gather to hear acts such as Azz Izz, Keller Williams, moe. and Robert Earl Keen.

"I thought the turnout was so much better than last year, due in large part to the lineup," said Rob Sabin, the Interfraternity Council executive vice president.

This year's "U of Blue" event was sponsored by Costa Del Mar, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Billfish Foundation helping conserve the marlin and sailfish populations. The Billfish Foundation is the world's largest international billfish tagging program.

Costa provided free goodies such as window decals, can holders and eyewear retainers. Costa also held a drawing for free sunglasses.

The night was not just about partying. A large part of the proceeds were also donated to Magic Moments, a charity organization that is similar to the Make-A-Wish Foundation in that it provides wishes to seriously ill children in Alabama.

"Funds will be determined Monday morning when we can get to the bank and also determine the number of tickets sold," Sabin said.

This is the second year Greekfest has contributed to Magic Moments.

The Interfraternity Council outdid itself with this year's lineup. A popular act in Tuscaloosa, AzzIzz started off the night with their hip hop, R&B and rock lineup. The Atlanta-based group will be returning to Tuscaloosa to play at Capone's 4th and 23rd on Sept. 11. This was the group's second year to participate.

Keller Williams took the stage at 7:45. A self-proclaimed "one-man-jam-band" out of Virginia, Keller exhibited his rendition of Nirvana's "All Apologies"



CW | Daniel Owen

See **GREEKFEST**, page 10

An enthusiastic crown enjoys the band moe. at Greekfest Friday.

UA iTunes U now up and running

By Haley Namie
Staff Writer

Recently, the University became part of iTunes U, a program used to provide educational and informational content that is usually limited to students, joining more than 200 colleges and universities in the iTunes U program.

Ivon Foster, assistant to the provost for special projects, said in an e-mailed statement, "iTunes U is the educational side of the iTunes Store, which provides a way for academic entities, such as universities, museums and libraries, to share educational content at no cost to the public and or to its members."

He said UA officials decided to get on board with iTunes earlier this year to promote success within the University. Foster said it would help to "showcase the talent within the



University."

"This program is meant to expand the knowledge of the University within the community, therefore the information is available to everyone at no cost," Foster said. "This is one of Apple's policies. In fact, Apple hosts

UA's content at no cost to the University."

Rachel Shuttleworth, lead coordinator for iTunes U at the UA Office of Information Technology, said the information is available in either video or audio format and can occasionally be downloaded in a PDF format. The content may be viewed through iTunes or downloaded to the student's computers.

The information on iTunes U is mostly outside classroom information. If instructors want their information on the iTunes U site, they must apply for it through a campus liaison.

"We are in the first phase of iTunes U at the University of Alabama: the public phase," Foster said.

Now, the main concern is the general interest of the public, Foster said. The future

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The Crimson White

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WEATHER today

Partly cloudy
85°/59°
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NEWS in brief

CAMPUS | RHA accepting applications

The Residence Hall Association is accepting applications for hall council executive officer positions through Sept. 1. Applications are available at community desks. For more information, contact RHA President Heather Goodlett at rha-pres@bama.ua.edu.

CAMPUS | Alabama volleyball starts season 0-3

The Alabama volleyball team suffered a pair of losses Saturday at the Active Ankle Challenge hosted by St. Louis University. In the first match, the Crimson Tide fell 3-0 to No. 1 Penn State and followed up with a heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Miami (Ohio). Alabama is now 0-3 on the season.

"I thought we played better as the day went on," head coach Judy Green said. "I liked how we started against Miami and would have liked to have ended the match differently. The difference late was definitely service errors."

In the Tide's match against Penn State, Alabama kept close early in the first set behind a balanced offensive attack that included kills from redshirt sophomore Sarah Machen, juniors Calli Johnson and Alyssa Meuth, Elizabeth Salstrand and Brooks Webster. Back-to-back kills from Salstrand put the Tide within three at 13-10, but an 8-1 run by Penn State sent the set out of reach. The Tide wouldn't be able to get much closer throughout the match and dropped in straight sets.

The Tide's evening match with Miami (Ohio) was much more dramatic, with the Redhawks and Tide swapping leads and sets all the way to the fifth set, where Alabama lost a barn-burner 15-10.

"We are starting to play harder as a team," Green said. "We knew we were going to learn a lot at this tournament and still know there are lots of things we need to work on."

STATE | Lincoln High head football coach dies

GADSDEN (AP) — Lincoln High's head football coach died after complaining of chest pains at halftime of his team's season opener.

Etowah County Coroner Michael J. Gladden said 48-year-old Keith Howard was pronounced dead Friday night at Riverview Medical Center in Gadsden. The Lincoln High Golden Bears beat Etowah High 26-7 during the game in Attalla.

Gladden said Howard likely died from a massive heart attack.

A Lincoln High graduate, Howard became head coach at the school in 2004. Before that he had been head coach at Ragland High.

Also Friday night, 65-year-old James Parrish, a high school football referee collapsed and died shortly after the beginning of the Dothan-Eufaula football game.

Send announcements and campus news to cwnews@sa.ua.edu

CAMPUS this week

TUESDAY

- **Freshman Forum Applications Due:** can be found at leadership. ua.edu, 4 p.m.
- **UA National Society of Black Engineers General Body Meeting:** East Engineering Building 111., 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- **Lunch and Learn:** 204-B Ferguson Center, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
- **Baby Talk:** University of Alabama Child Development Resource Center, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

For more events, see calendars on Arts & Entertainment and Sports.

The Crimson White

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As Internet turns 40, barriers threaten its continued growth

By Anick Jesdanun
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Goofy videos weren't on the minds of Len Kleinrock and his team at UCLA when they began tests 40 years ago on what would become the Internet. Neither was social networking, for that matter, nor were most of the other easy-to-use applications that have drawn more than a billion people online.

Instead the researchers sought to create an open network for freely exchanging information, an openness that

ultimately spurred the innovation that would later spawn the likes of YouTube, Facebook and the World Wide Web.

There's still plenty of room for innovation today, yet the openness fostering it may be eroding. While the Internet is more widely available and faster than ever, artificial barriers threaten to constrict its growth.

Call it a mid-life crisis. A variety of factors are to blame. Spam and hacking attacks force network operators to erect security firewalls. Authoritarian regimes block

access to many sites and services within their borders. And commercial considerations spur policies that can thwart rivals, particularly on mobile devices like the iPhone.

Few were paying attention back on Sept. 2, 1969, when about 20 people gathered in Kleinrock's lab at the University of California, Los Angeles, to watch as two bulky computers passed meaningless test data through a 15-foot gray cable.

That was the beginning of the fledgling Arpanet network. Stanford Research Institute joined a month later, and UC Santa Barbara and the University of Utah did by year's end.

The 1970s brought e-mail and the TCP/IP communications protocols, which allowed multiple networks to connect — and formed the Internet. The '80s gave birth to an addressing system with suffixes like ".com" and ".org" in widespread use today.

The Internet didn't become a household word until the '90s, though, after a British physicist, Tim Berners-Lee, invented the Web, a subset of the Internet that makes it easier to link resources across disparate locations. Meanwhile, service providers like America Online connected millions of people

for the first time.

That early obscurity helped the Internet blossom, free from regulatory and commercial constraints that might discourage or even prohibit experimentation.

"For most of the Internet's history, no one had heard of it," Zittrain said. "That gave it time to prove itself functionally and to kind of take root."

Even the U.S. government, which funded much of the Internet's early development as a military project, largely left it alone, allowing its engineers to promote their ideal of an open network.

When Berners-Lee, working at a European physics lab, invented the Web in 1990, he could release it to the world without having to seek permission or contend with security firewalls that today treat unknown types of Internet traffic as suspect.

Even the free flow of pornography led to innovations in Internet credit card payments, online video and other technologies used in the mainstream today.

"Allow that open access, and a thousand flowers bloom," said Kleinrock, a UCLA professor since 1963. "One thing about the Internet you can predict is you will be surprised by applications you did not expect."



Internet pioneer Len Kleinrock poses for a portrait next to an Interface Message Processor in Los Angeles on Tuesday. The Interface Message Processor was used to develop the internet.

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HOPE

Continued from page 1

functions related to that that aren't always perceived as helpful, I think there are a lot more things that we could be doing to genuinely help the faculty and encourage the research enterprise," Hope said.

Keeping this in mind, Hope said the current outlook for

research looks favorable for UA.

"The national climate in research experienced a large growth for research a couple of years back, but then it flattened out."

"The University of Alabama didn't really see that flattening, we continued to grow steadily during those periods and now with the stimulus funding we are beginning to see, we feel like we are in a position to take advantage of that and use it to the best advantage of the University and the state," Hope said.

Although the national focus is on transparency and accountability through research, Hope said that the program will rise to the challenge of meeting the goals of these new systems.

"I'm really excited about getting through the growing pains of the new systems and requirements and looking at it as more of an opportunity than a challenge to be able to show nationally the benefits that the research enterprise has for everyone," Hope said.

ITUNES

Continued from page 1

of iTunes U will be carefully coordinated along with campus stakeholders.

In this initial phase of the iTunes U program, students are encouraged not to post things on iTunes U unless they have contacted a campus liaison. According to Foster, "all requests to post content are reviewed by the appropriate campus liaison and the iTunes U team." Since all information on the site is available to the public and supported by the University, it is essential that UA keeps a close eye on the content being uploaded to iTunes U.

As far as using iTunes as a method of teaching, Shuttleworth commented that many professors are working hard to incorporate different programs in their teaching, including iTunes U.

"It is always exciting to see how technology tools like iTunes and podcasting are used in the classes," Shuttleworth said.

Shuttleworth said giving students a new way to access knowledge is one part of the increasing amount of technology available to them.

"The University of Alabama on iTunes U is not intended to replace any of UA's instructional technology tools, such as eLearning," Shuttleworth said.

In addition, Shuttleworth said the main goal of iTunes U is to share information obtained by the University of Alabama with as many people as possible within the school and the community.

Students who wish to access this information need to download the free iTunes application at apple.com/itunes/download.

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Chick-fil-A holds Spirit Day at University Mall



CW | Katie Bennett

Top left: The University of Alabama cheerleaders cheered for the crowd at Spirit Day at the University Mall.

Above: The Million Dollar Band drumline performs in the mall food court at Spirit Day.



CW | Katie Bennett

Top right: The Million Dollar Band plays at the University Mall on Saturday for Spirit Day, sponsored by Chick-fil-A.

Above: Big Al shows his spirit with the Million Dollar Band at Chick-fil-A's Spirit Day at the University Mall.

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Reform English education

Remember the day when your English teacher held up a thick classic filled with incomprehensible prose and old-fashioned themes and told you that it was required reading? Remember the groans and looks of agony all around? Some teachers want that to be a nightmare of the past.

In short: English classes need to be restructured to ensure that students learn.

A Georgia middle school is allowing students to do the unthinkable: pick the books they want to read for language arts classes.

On Saturday, the New York Times reported about an initiative where students pick their own reading materials, talk about the works with their teacher and fellow classmates, and write about their discoveries in the readings.

It is a revolutionary idea — one that weaves writing, reading, discussion and pleasure into one educational task. The interdisciplinary approach is one seemingly grounded less in academic theory and more in reality for what will actually help students to learn.

Supporters of the concept say that it promotes a love of reading while preventing — or at least alleviating — boredom in the classroom. Critics say that students will pick works of a lesser quality, and they bemoan the loss of the traditional class discussion.

Both arguments have their merits, and they should meld as part of a formula that will help to foster a desire to learn. While we are not professional educators, we feel that the current teaching methodology is dated and unlikely to truly educate those not majoring in English, meaning change is necessary and vital.

We support an approach that allows students flexibility and choice within certain parameters. Instructors should create a reading list of, say, 100 quality works of varying genres that will appeal to a broad cross-section of students. After completing a book on the approved list, the student will engage in the discussion and writing exercises proposed by supporters of the plan detailed in the Times article.

Through such a plan, students will improve writing and discussion skills while reading works that they will actually enjoy and, perhaps, remember for years to come. We all have our favorites — books whose plots we recall time and again. What if all of the books we detested reading were replaced with others we had chosen ourselves?

Learning should not be a chore. Rather, it should be a pleasure. It is time to reform the way we teach people to embrace reading. Make way for education, not anguish.

Step aside, Shakespeare.

Our View is the consensus of the Crimson White's editorial board.



MCT Campus

How to deal with texting

By Wesley Vaughn

Eight out of 10 students are currently annoyed by walking texters and intensely desire to bowl them over.

Capstonians: this survey reveals two serious issues that our campus faces. First, the abundance of students who dangerously decide to walk and text at the same time resembles a breakout of distracted zombies. Second, football season has yet to start, and everyone is riled up.

But, do not distress. I have a solution that clears our crosswalks of clueless cellular conversers and creates the fierce hits of football and other great side-effects.

I, along with the Halting Accidents Via Organized Contact group, advocate the fundamental right to body check those who text while strolling the campus. Just think of it as a simple nudge to abate the amplifying annoyance actively afflicting the area.

I have come up with the necessary ground rules to promote safety:

1. The body check is a single step shoulder shove. This prohibits running body checks and wrap-up tackles. The correct and legal technique should include a slight knee bend and extension into the opposing shoulder. Do not go around crackback blocking like Hines Ward.
2. It can only be a one-on-one strike. No gang take-downs.
3. Guys and girls can target only

those of the same gender.

4. Contact should be between the two opposing shoulders. Anything above or below is strictly prohibited.

5. Though this movement is to advocate for attentive ambulating, the only preoccupied individuals eligible for a nailing are walking texters and iPod song changers.

You might be incorrectly thinking this will cause chaotic circumstances on campus. Actually, this program will not create additional run-ins on the sidewalks as it will prevent ones that are already happening due to walking and texting. This plan will actually create more benefits than a Wall Street trader's contract. It helps both the texters involved and fiery football fans.

Firstly, this project focuses on preventing the mishaps caused by the distracting action of texting. HAVOC formed soon after the incident in which a girl fell through a manhole while paying too much attention to her phone. Just like the manhole, HAVOC seeks to drop the use of texting while on the go to create a safe environment with more aware pedestrians.

With football starting next weekend, adrenaline is flowing around the campus like grease on a Taco Casa burrito. Why not direct this vast source of energy into the preoccupied bane of our walkways?

With the importance of spotting qualified candidates for a knock-down and keeping oneself alert, relationships will arise in joint-

cause to stay upright.

Also, a successful body check opens the door for meeting a new friend. Help that guy or girl up after jacking them up and just see where it leads. Who knows, you may find a future friend, or just start a fight.

Lastly, to provide additional protection and strength in the struggle for smarter sidewalks, students will flock to the recreation center to work out. Individuals who failed to lift a weight through high school will begin bulk up all thanks to this initiative.

I, as a writing head, do not have as much influence on the student body as fellow students do. That is why I am counting on the prohibitive physical peer pressure to really impact how students walk on campus. Peer pressure is proven to stick in the mind of individuals, similar to using alliteration in a poem to aid remembrance.

The point of this is to promote the pocketing of the problematic phone while on pathways. HAVOC and I simply want to prevent walking accidents by using organized physical contact and if the means and side-effects happen to be exciting and beneficial, than that is just great.

As football commentators would say to wide receivers performing slant routes, "You need to keep your head on a swivel."

Wesley Vaughn is a sophomore majoring in public relations. His column runs weekly on Monday.

Kennedy's succession in Ps

By Alan Blinder

The body of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., had not even left the family compound in Hyannis Port before Democrats were discussing succession. The end result can be called the Four Ps of the Kennedy succession: partisan, power-grabbing, phony and pathetic.

Let's take a walk down memory lane. In 2004, John Kerry served in dual roles: Democratic nominee for president and senator from Massachusetts. For a while, polls indicated that Kerry had a serious prospect of defeating George W. Bush.

But a Kerry victory would have posed problems for Republicans and Democrats alike. Until 2004, under Massachusetts law, the governor had the power to appoint a successor if, for whatever reason, a senate seat opened. Mitt Romney, a Republican, was the governor at the time, and Democrats did not want him appointing Kerry's successor in the event the Democrat had the opportunity to take up residence on Pennsylvania Avenue.

So they changed the law. They said they wanted to protect the right of the people to choose their leaders, a goal most can support. To accomplish that, they removed the authority of the governor and gave it back to the people. After a seat opened, the new law said a

special election had to occur in 145 to 160 days to elect a successor.

But now, five years later, the will of the people is irrelevant, and it is because Democrats control the governorship. They want to change the law giving Deval Patrick, the governor, the right to appoint Kennedy's successor. Now.

Democrats offer two "defenses," a word that can be roughly translated in this instance to mean "excuses." First, Kennedy, before his death, wrote a letter to state legislators urging them to change the law so that Massachusetts could be certain to have representation with the prospect of health care reform before Congress.

Representation is fair, but why was a Republican patently incapable of making a similar decision five years ago? Are Democrats the only people qualified to make decisions on behalf of people? Such a question could be raised in multiple respects, but I digress.

On the issue of succession, Kennedy demonstrates the devout partisanship that made him a favorite of Democratic crowds for nearly a half-century. In this case, though, Kennedy's action is not merely partisan but hypocritical as well.

Second, Democrats argue the governor will appoint only a temporary replacement. This amounts to a term limit on Kennedy's former seat. Oh, the irony.

The notion of a temporary replacement is a novel one because it is important — and, indeed, a bedrock principle of American government — that each state have equal representation in the upper chamber. In this case, though, with the raw partisanship and hypocrisy expressed by Democrats, it is difficult to support the idea of a temporary replacement because it is evident what Democrats want: a vote.

Five years ago, the people could wait five months to have a special election so they could have a voice. Now, with a Democrat gone and the guarantee that a Democrat will replace him, the people's voice matters.

Democrats are treating the Kennedy succession as if the fate of American government hangs in the balance.

They should. The fate of another Democratic power-grab — health care reform — hangs in the balance, and with it, the chances of maintaining a Democratic majority. The fate of their American government hangs in the balance.

And it's all about them. In turn, the people are mere puppets for power.

And so the four Ps return: partisan, power-grabbing, phony and pathetic.

Alan Blinder is the opinions editor of the Crimson White. His column runs Mondays.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The myth of Canadian health care

By Brad Hodges

I am writing in response to the rather loaded question Jacob Summers posed on Friday: "Does that really sound better?" The last time I visited the DMV or the post office, I didn't spend more than 10-15 minutes there. I think our local and state governments provide services rather quickly, despite the stereotypes.

But that is beside the point. On the subject of health care, I wish to dispel the idea that there are long waiting lines for health care in Canada. In my experience, nothing could be further from the truth. Even though I am from the United States and my wife is from a different country, during six months of her pregnancy and during and after the birth of our daughter in Canada, we never waited more than 30 minutes to see a doctor. We never had to schedule an appointment. In fact, that wasn't possible. You just go to the clinic or hospital, and you are seen. Imagine me, an American, with my jaw on the floor when I was told at the front desk that there was no co-payment for the visit, either. The price of our daughter's prenatal care and birth? \$0. Compare that to the hundreds of dollars I had to pay as a full-time graduate student in Atlanta for ultrasounds, and you have to scratch your head.

Granted, taxes are higher in Canada. For example, in the capital, Ottawa, where I lived, the sales tax of the city and province totaled 15 percent. But everyone in Canada is covered 100 percent. Now that is living in a civilized world.

Please encourage those in political offices to pass universal health care, and don't believe the hype about "death panels" and such. I've lived in Canada, France, and even central Africa, and health care was always much more affordable and of equal or better quality than in the United States.

Brad Hodges is an instructor in the English Language Institute.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An economics lesson for Ian Sams

By Eddie Lowe

Ian Sams' column on Friday about health care, while extremely well written, erred in two major ways. Sams ignored the implications of the "basic economic principles" that he cites. He also mischaracterized

health care as a right that merits government protection.

Sams stated that access to health care is a right. Actually, health care is a service provided to people willing to purchase it. To assume otherwise is to ignore the rights of the people who provide health care. Citizens' desire for cheap services has trumped service-providers' rights in the past, one example being American planters' desire for

low-cost labor.

Switching gears, economics is probably not the best tool to use when arguing for socialization of healthcare. (Before you dismiss me as a fear-monger for using the "S" word, answer me this: how many self-respecting socialists don't aspire to having universal healthcare in whatever country they represent?) Sams cited as a factual reality that "universal national health insur-

ance will drive down healthcare costs and allow all American citizens access to quality, affordable health insurance." However, he ignored another factual reality: the relationship between supply and demand. Artificially lowered cost leads to increased demand on a finite number of healthcare providers.

Quality of care is left as the variable that becomes "squeezed." This is the point

where people start talking about rationing care. Sams' other point about private companies being able to outcompete the government for customers is also off base. If that were to happen, consumers would still be paying taxes to fund the government programs as well; meaning a net rise in cost for consumers.

Eddie Lowe is a senior majoring in political science.

Monday, August 31, 2009

Editor • Alan Blinder
letters@cw.ua.edu

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{ YOUR VIEW }

SHOULD THERE BE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE BUSH ERA?

"I think they should just let it go. It's in the past. It's over with."

— **Joshua Sullen**,
freshman, business administration

"I think it's pretty clear that the Bush administration didn't do a good job. They should really focus more on what's going on now. There's more than enough to handle."

— **Richard Hill**,
freshman, psychology

"If there's evidence of something that needs to be investigated, then yes, definitely."

— **Nicholas Earley**,
senior, accounting

"If they haven't really done anything like that before, why would you do it now?"

— **Christine Roesch**,
freshman, psychology

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US faces smarter foe in Afghanistan

By Lara Jakes
the Associated Press

Now Zad, Afghanistan—After three tours in Iraq, U.S. Marine Sgt. Andre Leon was used to brutal shoot-outs with enemy fighters and expected more of the same in Afghanistan.

Instead, what he's seen so far are anonymous attacks in the form of mines and roadside bombings — the mark of what he calls a cowardly adversary.

"I'm not impressed with them," Leon, 25, of Herndon, Va., said this past week from a Marines camp deep in the southern province of Helmand, where U.S. forces are challenging Taliban insurgents and their devastating use of IEDs, or homemade bombs. "I expected more of a stand-and-fight. All these guys do is IEDs."

Marines on the front lines in southern Afghanistan say there's no question that the militants are just as deadly as the Iraqi insurgents they once fought in Iraq's Anbar Province. The Afghan enemy is proving to be a smaller, but smarter opponent, taking full

advantage of the country's craggy and enveloping terrain in eluding and then striking at U.S. troops.

In interviews, Marines across Helmand said their new foes are not as religiously fanatic as the Syrian and Chechen militants they fought in Iraq and often tend to be hired for battle. U.S. commanders call them the "\$10 Taliban."

Taking advantage of the Afghanistan's mountainous rural landscape, the fighters often spread out their numbers, hiding in fields and planting bombs on roads, rather than taking aim at U.S. forces from snipers' nests in urban settings, as often was the case in Iraq. And they are not as bent on suicide, often retreating to fight another day.

"One thing about Afghanistan, they're not trying to go to paradise," said Sgt. Robert Warren, 26, of Peshtigo, Wis. He served a tour in both Iraq and Afghanistan before his current assignment at Combat Outpost Sharp, a Marines camp hidden in cornfields and dirt piles.

"They want to live to see

tomorrow," Warren said. "They engage with us, but when they know we'll call in air support, they'll break contact with us. ... They're just as fierce, but they're smarter." Marine commanders believe they face between 7,000 and 11,000 Taliban fighters in Afghanistan, although it is unclear how many are low-level militants hired for battle as opposed to extremist leaders.

By comparison, officials still are unsure how many members of al-Qaida in Iraq remain. Earlier estimates ranged between 850 to several thousand full-time fighters, although commanders believe that number has been reduced significantly as a result of counterinsurgency efforts in Iraq.

There are some similarities between the fighters in Iraq and Afghanistan. Officers and enlisted troops said both foes have no qualms about using civilians as human shields.

Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commander of the Marine brigade leading the current fight in Helmand, said the Taliban's use of IEDs shows the extremists' disregard for Afghan

civilians — much as in Iraq.

"Enemy here is equally brutal and cowardly in conducting despicable acts of intimidation and cruelty directed against (the) local population," said Nicholson, who was severely wounded in a rocket attack in Fallujah in 2004 during the first of his two commands in Iraq.

Both foes are also sometimes known to use drugs — troops have reported finding syringes and needles in enemy camps.

Training does not seem to be an issue for Marines who have been making the transition from Iraq to Afghanistan. Their skills appear to have held up in both war zones.

But new U.S. battle guidelines that limit shooting into or otherwise attacking buildings without ensuring there are no civilians inside have at times made the fighting more difficult.

The rules were put into place this summer after dozens of Afghans were killed in a May battle in Farah province that ended when U.S. forces bombed a building where Taliban fighters were believed



International Security Assistance Force vehicles are seen after a convoy was targeted by the mine.

to be hiding.

"It's frustrating to be attacked from a building," said Lt. Joe Hamilton of Baltimore as he scrutinized two-story village structures on the

other side of dirt-and-barbed wire walls at Combat Outpost Fiddler's Green.

"You can't shoot back because you don't know if there are civilians there."

State fairs create new trade for jobless

By Nomaan Merchant
The Associated Press

FALCON HEIGHTS, Minn. — A year's worth of failed job leads prepared Richard Briggs for anything, including night shifts as a Minnesota State Fair custodian.

For \$8.50 an hour, the out-of-work financial analyst vacuums and cleans bathrooms in fairground buildings. Briggs, 38, said he's "something of a curiosity" among his co-workers.

"You know, they don't hire financial analysts to clean the sidewalks," Briggs said.

A crippled economy has

sent droves of unemployed and underemployed people to fairs nationwide, with many reporting record numbers of applicants to tear tickets, serve food and clean up after crowds.

Iowa's state fair closed most of its hiring weeks earlier than usual. Colorado's fair is finished hiring but was still getting more than 50 people a day trying to apply as the fair opened last week. In Indiana, about 2,300 people — at least twice as many as usual — applied for 800 open positions.

"And the nice thing about it for us is that we got, I guess you could say, many overqual-

ified candidates," said Andy Klotz, a spokesman for the Indiana State Fair.

In Minnesota, more than 10,000 people applied for the fair's 3,000 jobs. At the same time more people were applying, fair vendors intent on keeping costs down were requesting far fewer employees than in years past.

And, more experienced fair workers were returning. The fair had room for just 1,250 new employees, about one-third the number of last year.

Briggs lives in the Twin Cities suburb of Mendota Heights with his wife and two stepchildren. He lost his



Richard Briggs, 38, of Mendota Heights, Minn., an out-of-work financial analyst, cleans buildings during his temporary job at the Minnesota State Fair in St Paul, Minn., Friday

job last September, and he's found few openings in the financial sector since. Over dinner in June, his wife suggested he apply for a job at the fair, which he hadn't attended since childhood.

"It'll get you out of the house, and you'll be busy for 12 straight days," Briggs

remembers her saying.

After a visit to the State Fair's employment center, he got an offer. Though the family still has his wife's income as a regulatory analyst, Briggs said his fair paycheck has given their budget "some breathing space."

"We have a mortgage to pay

and mouths to feed," he said.

As the fair opened its 12-day run last week, Josh Chaika was working a day shift as a custodian.

Chaika, 27, signed up to work for the first time this year. He has a part-time job for 30 hours a week, but when he saw a newspaper advertisement for fair jobs, he decided to apply because he "just needed the extra cash."

He was surprised when he heard about the size of the waiting list.

"I didn't think it would be that tough," he said.

Jerry Hammer, the general manager of Minnesota's fair, said it's not always like this.

"I've seen other years where we're telling staff to go home and tell your friends and neighbors' workers are needed," he said.

The Minnesota State Fair still attracted a large number of teenagers and 20-somethings. Jessica Schoenleber got a job tearing tickets on one of the fair's parking lots. The 23-year-old from nearby Roseville wanted to make some money before she moves to New Zealand this fall.

"This was more like short-term, high intensity and a lot of fun," Schoenleber said of the job.

The high demand for state fair jobs is occurring at time when attendance is up as more people cut back on travel and look for attractions close to home. Minnesota set a first-day record Thursday with more than 114,000 attendees.

"We seem to be one of those sectors of the economy that we're doing quite well," said Jim Tucker, CEO of the International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions. "Not only are we not down, we're up."

Briggs, the financial analyst-turned-custodian, says he's not ashamed of his new job, even if he seems over-qualified.

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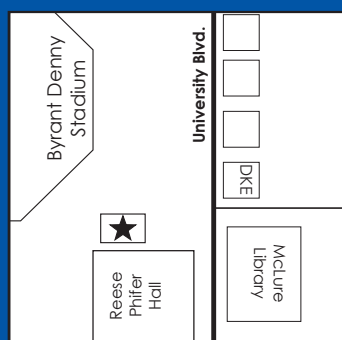
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Shuttle Discovery close to space station

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Discovery closed in fast on the international space station for a Sunday night linkup more than 200 miles above the planet.

A thruster failure made the rendezvous all the more challenging for shuttle commander Rick Sturckow.

One of Discovery's small thrusters began leaking shortly after Friday's midnight liftoff and was shut down. None of the little jets was available for the rendezvous and docking, and Sturckow was going to have to use the bigger, more powerful primary thrusters, making for a somewhat bumpier, noisier ride.

Sturckow trained for this backup method — never before attempted for a space station docking — well before the flight.

Discovery and its crew of seven are delivering thousands of pounds of science experiments and equipment, including a treadmill named for Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert. The treadmill was launched in more than 100 pieces, and astronaut Nicole Stott — who will become the newest space station resident — won't have time to put it together until the shuttle is long gone.

Earlier in the day, Stott sent "big space hugs" down to her 7-year-old son, Roman. "I just want to let him know I love him more than anything," she radioed. Stott will remain at the space station until another shuttle comes to get her in November.

Discovery will spend more than a week at the orbiting complex, and the astronauts will perform three spacewalks to replace an ammonia tank and perform other outside maintenance. The first one will take place Tuesday night.

It will be only the second time 13 people are together in orbit. The first was just last month during Endeavour's space station visit.

Discovery, meanwhile, seems to have fared well.

The chairman of NASA's mission management team, LeRoy Cain, said Sunday that a preliminary look at launch pictures and other data indicates the shuttle had no major damage. No significant pieces of foam insulation were spotted coming off the fuel tank.

Cain cautioned that another few days of analyses are needed. Engineers will have even more data after Discovery pulls up at the space station. The shuttle will perform a slow backflip so the space station crew can photograph its belly in a search for damage.



Space shuttle Discovery lights up the night as it streaks past the Ponce de Leon Inlet lighthouse in Ponce Inlet, Fla., after its 11:59pm lift-off from Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. Friday.

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Dad's Garage improvises at Ferg.

By Steven Nalley
Arts and Entertainment editor

Scott Warren loves failure. It is not only part of the fun of improvisational comedy, but also something improvisers have to risk in order to make the audience laugh, said Warren, intro producer with the nonprofit theatre group Dad's Garage.

"The more you take chances, the bigger chance you have to fail, but at the same time, the bigger the chance you have to succeed," Warren said. "It's a format that kind of encourages failure in some ways."

For no charge, UA students can watch Dad's Garage flirt with failure at the Ferguson Center Theatre 7 p.m. Monday.

Warren said the performance would not only be

improvised – it will also feature audience interaction with performers who have been in the business for 10 to 15 years. He compared the show to ABC Family's "Whose Line is it Anyway?" and its series of games.

"Dad's Garage's improv foundation is storytelling, so we will do that often with a lot of improv games," Warren said. "It's a really fun, never-the-same-show-twice experience."

Warren said these constant changes also make improvisation difficult. For example, he said, an actor could play a bully in one scene and the victim of a bully in the next.

"Improv is something that you're doing with other people, so one of the biggest challenges is just being really connected and trying to achieve

a group mind with other individuals," Warren said. "The biggest challenges are listening, always tightening and exploring the story, and at the same time, too, I think it's challenging because it's never the same."

Dad's Garage began 15 years ago with two Florida State University graduates who took over a theatre building in Atlanta after another troupe left, said Dan Triandfilou, director of improvisation. He said the original members met at festivals in the area.

"As time went on, they went from being a volunteer theatre to being a somewhat professional theatre with a larger staff. Audiences started to grow, interest started to grow, and the theatre started to grow," Triandfilou said. "Over the course of time, it's

just managed to survive when most theatres usually go under in two or three years."

Now they have grown large enough to have a full-time staff, and Dad's Garage attends festivals across the continent. Triandfilou said even though Dad's Garage was not always non-profit, the donations helped keep ticket prices low.

"If we didn't have those donations from both companies and individuals, then our ticket prices would have to go up," Triandfilou said. "It's great because about 60 percent of our revenues are ticket sales and our classes, but we rely about 35-40 percent on donated income. But because we have that, we're able to keep our ticket prices low."

While Dad's Garage has

IF YOU GO ...

- **What:** Dad's Garage Theatre Company
- **Where:** Ferguson Center Theatre
- **When:** Tonight at 7 p.m.

performed at universities and in Alabama, Triandfilou said they have never actually performed at the University. However, he said the group was excited about bringing their raw, thrown-together storytelling to UA.

"Usually colleges are a great venue for that," Triandfilou said. "We're looking forward to it."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Page 8 • Monday, August 31, 2009
Editor • Steven Nalley
smnalley@crimson.ua.edu

A&E this weekend

TODAY

• **Dad's Garage:** improvisation group at Ferguson Center theatre, 7:00 pm

Guerrilla Theatre draws crowds

By Hannah Marcum
Staff writer

On a stage painted with vibrant, rainbow-bright swirls, the first Guerrilla Theatre of the 2009-10 school year began with a bang.

Guerrilla Theatre is a stu-

dent production of 10 acts throughout a two-hour show that occurs periodically during the year. The content includes monologues, singing, dancing, poetry and comedy acts. Most acts are student-developed and geared towards the college-aged crowd.

Glenn Halcomb, a junior majoring in theatre, is president of Alpha Psi Omega, which organizes Guerrilla. He said while Guerrilla was a unique entity on campus, it shared similarities to an open-mic night.

"It is a great opportunity for artists to really work and showcase their abilities," Halcomb said. "Guerrilla is one of the most exciting events on campus because it is a place where different people can come together and enjoy a universal commonality: art."

Halcomb said. "Guerrilla's turnout was impressive, with more people showing up than could possibly fit into the sweltering Allen-Bales Theatre for the show."

"The line had wrapped around the building well before 10:30," Halcomb said. "Unfortunately, we had to turn people away, which I hate to do, but we cannot fit everybody into the space."

The audience found seats on the floor and along the aisles.

Before the show began, the audience and players were invited to the stage to dance

"Guerrilla is one of the most exciting events on campus because it is a place where different people can come together and enjoy a universal commonality: art"

— Glenn Halcomb

to a variety of music ranging from The Jackson Five's "ABC" to Flo-Rida's "Low." The students seemed to be having the time of their lives, and it's difficult to restrain yourself from joining the fun.

Actors like Dianna Duffy, a veteran of Guerrilla, exude such a carefree attitude you would think they were dancing alone in their room with a hairbrush held to their mouth as a microphone.

The participants in Guerrilla Theatre all seem to have a close bond, sharing inside-jokes with the unassuming crowd throughout the production. It was a laid-back show that conjures up deeper feelings, laughter and insight than most professionally done plays.

Although Saturday night's program only included eight acts, each performance

squeezed some form of emotion from the audience. The opening act included a "gay-off" which ended with the winner having two mothers, one of whom was Madonna and the other Cher.

The final act included one man, a guitar and a harmonica. Lawson Hangartener, a junior majoring in musical theatre, performed singles by Ryan Adams and Ray LaMontagne, along with a self-written song.

Hangartener seemed to capture everyone's thoughts by stopping during a song and proclaiming, "Sorry I'm so sweaty and nasty, it's hot in here and I'm a little drunk."

The next Guerrilla Theatre will be Oct. 3 at 11p.m. To support your favorite Guerrilla Theatre actors in musicals, dramas and dance, log on to as.ua.edu/theatre for this season's lineup.



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The most important record of the decade

By Trey Irby
A&E Columnist

The trend has already started.

Over the next few months, you'll keep hearing about pieces covering the impact of the 2000s – or the Aughts

– as we figure out what happened this decade. Lists of favorite albums of this decade will probably show everything from Wilco's "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" to Eminem's "Marshall Mathers LP" in an attempt to define the decade's musical importance.

But one album is ultimately more important than either Wilco or Marshall's high touchstone. That record is Nickelback's 2001 record "Silver Side Up."

Now, I see the expression on your face. You are probably extremely repulsed that anybody would essentially champion the work of Nickelback, a band that's sold a lot of records in the modern era yet is apparently hated by about everybody on Earth when mentioned in conversation. Don't worry, I'm aware of this, too.

I'm also aware that important records should have genre-shifting songs and change the landscape, but that also doesn't really require the

record to be good to do this. Sometimes, it is just a natural occurrence.

When "Silver Side Up" was released, at least three of the songs from the record became massive rock radio singles, including "How You Remind Me," which became the biggest song of 2002. And for our generation, this moment was pivotal for the simple reason that after the mid-to-late '90s post-grunge absence of a band on the radio more powerful than the medium, a rock band transcended said medium and left record labels sputtering to think of a response. Even though nu-metal was a shift in rock radio's tastes, none of that totally transcended its fan base like "Silver Side Up."

More importantly, it came at the exact time of the peer-to-peer age. While major labels scrambled to find bands like the perverted Hinder or to embrace the sexual deviancy of the reborn Buckcherry, listeners were getting their music faster and building

their tastes in ways unprecedented. Whether intended or not, "Silver Side Up" broke music's listener base as people decided to expand their palette.

It is patently ridiculous to put the blame on one band as to why our culture is more cultured in musical tastes. Peer-to-peer file sharing was popularized in 2000 before "Silver Side Up" was released, and the 1990s were just as guilty of having their artists make songs that had to sound happy and fit a radio-friendly formula.

However, every fresh stance in the years past 2000 is almost reactionary to rock radio. Radiohead released three albums within the first four years of the new decade and they barely even sound like the band that did "OK Computer," much less a band that is derivative of the times. And of course, it was slightly fitting that by the end of the decade, they championed the very Internet that voracious-

ly tore us all away from rock radio to begin with.

And while Nickelback and their sound-alikes still sell a lot of records, the rift it has created in my generation is fatal. Almost every single person alive has heard "How You Remind Me" and a lot of them dislike it severely. And in response, we now listen to everything from Animal Collective to Bruce Springsteen to Kanye West, and much, much more in between.

Nearly all of my favorite bands in the new decade were discovered online, either by a friend sending a song or by me just finding out about it. Without the Internet, I would be stuck in the dark ages, and a lot of other people without giant amounts of disposable income or pure obsessive nature about music would be just as stuck.

We would all listen to Chad Kroeger's voice and find no fault in it. And ignorance would be bliss, more or less.

'Final Destination' arrives at No. 1 with \$28.3M

By David Germain
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Movie fans have made fear their top destination at the weekend box office.

The horror tale "The Final Destination" debuted as the No. 1 movie with \$28.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Warner Bros. sequel is the latest installment in the franchise about people stalked by death after a premonition saves them from their destined demise.

"Final Destination" took over the top spot from Quentin Tarantino and Brad Pitt's World War II saga "Inglourious Basterds," which slipped to second place with \$20 million. The Weinstein Co. release raised its total to \$73.8 million after 10 days in theaters.

It's slot with the horror flick "Halloween II," which opened with \$17.4 million. The movie is Rob Zombie's sequel to his update of the slasher franchise about crazed killer Michael Myers.

It's unusual for two horror movies to open over the same weekend. While "Final Destination" and "Halloween II" competed for the same audience, both managed solid receipts.

"They got their \$17 million, we got our \$28 million. That's a lot of business all around," said Jeff Goldstein, general sales manager for Warner Bros.

"Final Destination" continued Hollywood's streak of 3-D successes. The 3-D component accounted for 70 percent of the movie's revenues, even though only 54 percent of the 3,121 theaters where it played offered the movie in 3D.

The Weinstein Co. plans

to release "Halloween 3" in 3-D next summer, said Bob Weinstein, who co-founded the company with brother Harvey. While Zombie will not be back to direct, the next sequel will pick up from his story and give a new twist on slasher Myers, Weinstein said.

"Halloween II" did far less business than Zombie's "Halloween," which opened at No. 1 with \$30.6 million two years ago. But Weinstein noted that the sequel took in more than its \$15 million production budget over opening weekend.

"It's like hitting a single or a double," Weinstein said. "There are going to be bigger ones like 'Inglourious Basterds,' but for the Weinstein Co., we don't mind having two or three of these a year."

The weekend's other new wide release, Focus Features' music romp "Taking

Woodstock," opened a weak No. 9 with \$3.7 million. Directed by Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Brokeback Mountain"), "Taking Woodstock" is a nostalgic look behind the scenes at the mammoth 1969 rock concert.

Though Hollywood's summer season historically does not end until Labor Day, the holiday comes late this year, adding an extra week to the movie schedule and skewing comparisons to past summers.

Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian is using this Monday to mark the end of the season, since this weekend corresponded to Labor Day weekend last year. Dergarabedian estimated that through Monday, Hollywood will have taken in \$4.26 billion, 1.5 percent ahead of the revenue record the industry set in summer 2008.

TOP BOX OFFICE WEEKEND

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "The Final Destination:" \$28.3 million.
2. "Inglourious Basterds:" \$20 million.
3. "Halloween II:" \$17.4 million.
4. "District 9:" \$10.7 million.
5. "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra:" \$8 million.
6. "Julie & Julia:" \$7.4 million.
7. "The Time Traveler's Wife:" \$6.7 million.
8. "Shorts:" \$4.9 million.
9. "Taking Woodstock:" \$3.7 million.
10. "G-Force:" \$2.8 million.

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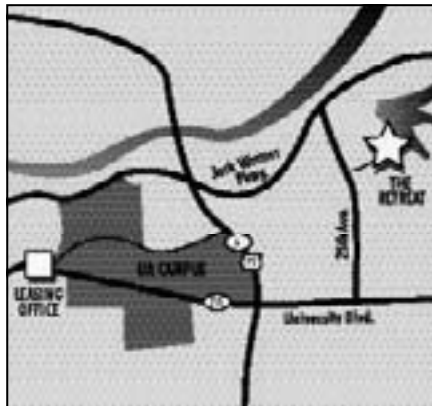
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GREEKFEST

(Continued from page 1)

his signature bluegrass/folk/funk style. A self-taught musician, Williams has toured with acts such as Umphrey's McGee and the String Cheese Incident. Williams uses a

guitar connected to a Gibson Echoplex Delay system, allowing him to play unaccompanied and with a variety of instruments.

Robert Earl Keen, who has been on the college music scene since 1980, took the stage at 9:15 with his hit, "The Road Goes on Forever."

A Texas native, Keen has a discography displaying 15 records and four top-five hits.

The progressive rock band moe. rounded out the night at 11. moe. has been around since the 80's and, along with Keen, is a regular on the college radio scene.

Ben Black, a sophomore

majoring in English, said he attended the show for the musicians, along with a slew of other students not involved in greek life.

"The acts are so worth \$25," Black said. "You feel a little out of place to begin with, but ultimately everybody's really nice, even if you're not greek."

Last year's acts included Sister Hazel and Blues Traveler, and Black said this year's Greekfest was an improvement.

"Last year was okay," Black said. "I mean, you can hear those bands anywhere, but somebody had to work to get Robert Earl Keen here."

Security was tight on Jefferson Avenue Friday night, and only students 21 or older with an I.D. were allowed in with beer. Separate yellow wristbands were distributed to those old enough to drink.

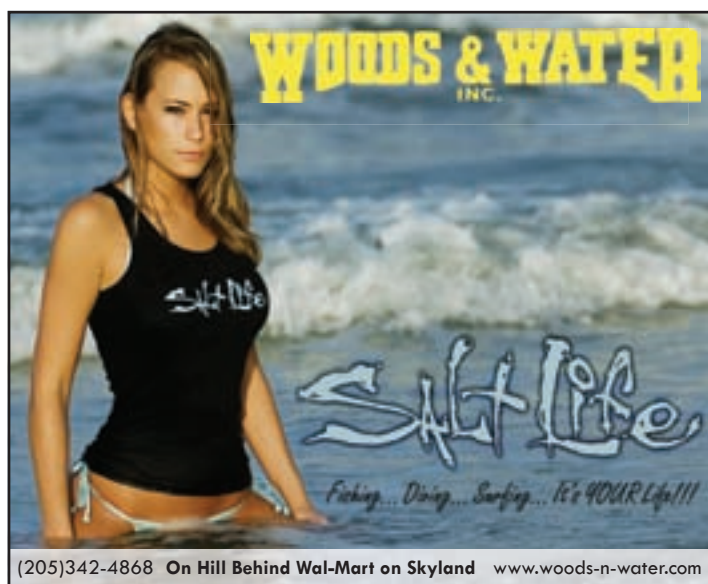
"Even though they threw away my liquor," Black said, "it's been a good night."



Top left: Rob Derhak, lead singer of the band moe. plays to crowds at Greekfest.

Above: moe. lead guitarist wows crowds at Greekfest.

CW | Daniel Owen



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Above: moe. entertains students at Greekfest Charity Concert. **Middle left:** Keller Williams plays for eager crowds Friday night **Left:** Thousands of fans turned out for Greekfest to hear moe, as well as three other bands.

CW | Daniel Owen

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Actress talks about new 'Greek' season

By Lindsey Shelton
Student Life Editor

The third season of "Greek," premiering tonight on ABC Family, will bring new and challenging issues for the characters on the show.

Dilshad Vadsaria, who plays Rebecca Logan on the show, said viewers can expect fresh and very relatable story lines this season.

"[There are] definitely going to be tests in friendships, what you have morally lived by your entire life may come into question, maybe figuring out that not everything in life is going to go the way you think it should and bending a little bit for friends," Vadsaria said in a conference call. "I think that is definitely something that is going to come into play."

"Greek" portrays college students in fraternities and sororities as well as independent students at the fictitious Cyprus-Rhodes University.

Vadsaria said she has learned a lot about greek life since she started the show.

"There were so many things I didn't know about greek life," Vadsaria said. "I was familiar with what it was to rush, but I think it's the more traditional ceremonies or practices that have sustained for decades, especially in the South, where Greek life is so huge, that I am learning more and more about."

Throughout the show, there is competition in the greek system, especially between sororities. Last season, there was a stiff rivalry between the fictional Zeta Beta Zeta and Iota Kappa Iota houses. Vadsaria said this season, that all may change.

"This season is going to be rocky for ZBZ," she said. "The IKIs are gone, but now there is another sorority that is going to come in and

try to take their place."

Some of the main characters on "Greek" are near graduation, but Vadsaria said Patrick Sean Smith, the show's creator, will find a way to keep the graduating characters on the show.

"We can't lose some of these main characters, we would lose almost half our cast," said Vadsaria with a laugh. "I think they are going to be creative in the ways they keep some of these characters around. The show is greek, so it's going to have to be within that realm."

Vadsaria said "Greek" accurately portrays the college experience.

"I think we have kind of found this wonderful line of entertainment of playing true to what real life in college is, all the fun you have and all the painful times you have too," Vadsaria said.



Dilshad Vadsaria, center, stars as Rebecca Logan in the ABC Family show "Greek".

Students: 'Greek' fails to reflect true greek

By Emily Shields
Staff Writer

ABC Family's "Greek" returns tonight for its third season. The hit show chronicles the college life of students at the fictional Cyprus-Rhodes University and revolves around greek life at the school.

Though the show focuses on students at a fictional college, many UA students said they do not watch the show. Upon hearing about "Greek," some

students, such as Cayla Corbin, a freshman majoring in journalism, had a puzzled look on their face and had to be reminded that it was a television show.

"I've never watched 'Greek,'" Corbin said. "I don't really know that much about it."

Homework and other activities also limit the amount of time students have for watching television, let alone the show "Greek." Shelby Wiedwich, a freshman majoring in biology, said she has never seen the show.

"I just have so much homework," Wiedwich said.

Taylor Boatwright, a sophomore majoring in nursing, said she agrees. Boatwright said she has never seen the show because she "doesn't have any time to watch television."

One of the questions that come up when discussing "Greek" is whether it motivates students to participate in the greek system. Some said that, for them, it doesn't.

Jazmine Warren, a sophomore majoring in marketing, said she is a big fan of the show. Watching "Greek," she said, was a great way to procrastinate during studying for exams. She also said she "almost rushed because

of how fun it looked, but knew it wasn't like that in real life."

Critics of the show say that people who watch should know that it is entertainment, not reality and that it is not meant to be taken seriously as a portrayal of the greek system.

Some students agree that the show should not be a reflection of real greek life. Chelsey Murphree, a freshman, said the episodes she watched were a little ridiculous.

Because of the drinking and partying stereotypes displayed on the show, some greek organizations nationally have been outspoken against the show. An online petition sponsored by anonymous "members of greek organizations" has more than 2,800 online signatures.

Several UA students involved with greek life on campus refused to comment for this story. Many of them said they did not want their comments to reflect on their greek organization.

Like Warren, Leslie Parrish, a freshman majoring in business management, said the show is purely fictional.

"I really like the show," Parrish said. "I don't think it has much truth, but it's entertaining."

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Tide looks for second SEC crown

By Brian Bishop
Staff Writer

Coming off the best two seasons in school history, the Alabama men's cross country team has set a high standard for this year's squad.

The last two years have seen the Crimson Tide produce two top-2 SEC Championship finishes, the 2008 SEC Championship and two top-10 finishes in the NCAA Championships. As coach Joe Walker enters his ninth year with the Tide, he said he is expecting great things from this year's squad as well.

"I think we have a very talented group coming back, and I believe that we should be competing for an SEC title this year," Walker said.

The Tide has appeared in eight of the last 10 NCAA Championships and is hoping to make it the fifth straight in 2009. Entering nationals ranked fifth in the country last year, the Alabama men finished 10th after

a less-than-stellar performance in the championships.

The Tide's sustained success has been part of the "process," as a certain UA coach refers to frequently, of building a championship cross country team that should be poised to capture an SEC crown this year as well as a national title run.

"Our expectations are to win the SEC every year," Walker said.

Those hopes became reality last year as the Tide knocked off national powerhouse Arkansas, ending the Razorbacks 34-year conference title streak, with the last 17 coming in the SEC.

"The win over Arkansas last year to win the SEC was great for our program," Walker said. "We have a pretty young team coming back and only returning four of the top seven runners from last year, but we have a few core veterans to help lead this team."

The Tide's two biggest leaders this year are seniors Tyson

David and Emmanuel Bor, who both hail from Kenya and were All-SEC performers a year ago. David finished second at the SEC Championships last year and was named SEC Athlete of the Year in cross country.

"Tyson is a standout runner for us," Walker said. "He's a great leader and I'm looking forward to him having another great season."

The Tide will also be relying on Bor, who, like David, finished in the top five at the SEC Championships, and was the top finisher for the Tide at the NCAA Championships a year ago.

Bor should have a little more motivation this year as his younger brother, junior college transfer Julius Bor, is now running alongside him for the Tide this season.

"Julius is going to give us some key depth this year, as well as the other new guys like Fred Samoei and Moses Kiptoo who are strong talented distance runners, which should help us



UA Media Relations

Senior Emmanuel Bor runs at last year's Men's Cross Country SEC Championships.

out tremendously," Walker said. "I'm excited about the young guys we have this year and the depth they're going to provide for our team as well as help lead this team to a SEC title."

The Tide will start the season September 5 in the Memphis

Twilight Opener in Memphis, Tenn. Alabama will then host its Annual Crimson Classic on September 18 for its home opener. The Tide will also be traveling to Eugene, Ore., for the Bill Dellinger Invitational, where they will face the preseason number one team in the nation, the Oregon Ducks.

"Our team is really looking forward to the trip to Oregon to see how we will measure up nationally against a great Oregon team, which should tell us where we are as a team," Walker said.

As long as Alabama can keep the Razorbacks from starting yet another long streak and hold off a very good Auburn squad this year, the Tide should find itself holding up its second consecutive SEC title. If its mixture of good young talent and experienced veterans produce as expected this year, the Tide might find themselves holding up their first NCAA Championship as well.

Page 12 • Monday,
August 31, 2009
Editor • Jason Galloway
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WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Tide carries high expectations into season

By NiCarla Friend
Staff Writer

After completing the first official practice on Aug. 15, the Crimson Tide women's cross country team has better expectations for the new season than last year.

Coach Randy Hasenbank said they have every right to do so.

"I think their expectations have been raised," Hasenbank said. "I've coached them up on what I think we can accomplish. I think they're starting to think a little bit bigger, and they certainly want to finish in the upper-level division in the SEC."

With this season comes the return of some outstanding athletes, such as sophomore Sara Vaughn and junior Haley Moody. Moody will be returning after spending most of last season out with a leg injury, but Hasenbank believes she is better than ever.

"[Moody] had a really good summer," Hasenbank said. "She's healthier than she has been in a very long time, and she's getting her confidence back. She looks really good in her training right now, and I'm looking forward to her



UA Media Relations

Sophomore Sara Vaughn runs at last year's Women's Cross Country SEC Championships.

making big contributions this season, and so is she."

Vaughn and Kelsey Johnson experienced much success last year as freshmen. Vaughn competed in the World Junior

Cross Country meet in Jordan last March. She and Johnson also competed in the SEC and NCAA championships. With such successful freshmen seasons under their belts, some wonder how and if it affects their outlooks on this season.

"Those girls have very lofty goals as individuals, and I think that they can really set the tone for the team because they're able to run well up front," Hasenbank said. "Most of the competitions we're in, they get us off to a great start in the team score. They want to battle up there for SEC titles, earn those all-region honors, and they ultimately want to run in that national championship meet."

One group in particular that may be looking up to Vaughn's success will be the four fresh-

men being added to the roster. "Although Vaughn's accomplishments may be a little overwhelming, he thinks the freshmen are not intimidated but impressed," Hasenbank said.

"Maybe watching [Vaughn and Johnson] run and seeing their abilities may be a lot for some of them to grasp because they are very, very talented. [The freshmen] are impressed by what they've accomplished and excited about what they can do, too."

Katlyn Will is one of those freshmen. Hailing from Corinth, Miss., Will has numerous accolades in cross country as well as track and field.

"She helped her team win four cross country titles and three track and field titles,

so she's used to winning," Hasenbank said. "She has a winner's mentality, and she's going to be able to contribute and compete with our group up front, no doubt."

Another freshman that has been added to the roster is Elsbeth Denton from Vestavia Hills, outside of Birmingham.

"Denton was a state runner-up as a junior in cross country," Hasenbank said. "She was very, very consistent throughout her high school career. She was a very solid performer, and I'm looking forward to see what she can do once she gets with a group of runners and has some training partners. I think that she will do very well."

The Tide will compete in the Belmont Opener on Sept. 5.

ALABAMA SPORTS trivia

What was Alabama's national rank in rushing defense last season?

- A: 5
- B: 1
- C: 7
- D: 2

Answer: D

How many Division I career victories does Nick Saban have as a head coach?

- A: 110
- B: 227
- C: 101
- D: 128

Answer: A

What NFL team retired the number of former Alabama star Don Hudon?

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- B: Green Bay Packers
- C: Chicago Bears
- D: Kansas City Chiefs

Answer: B

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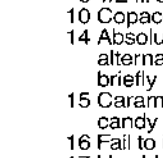
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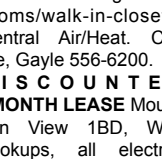
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Today's Horoscope

Today's Birthday (08/31/09) Somebody else has the idea, and it works for the two of you. Ask everybody until you find the right notion. There may be more than one.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 5 -- A puzzle you've been putting together finally starts to make sense. A little more work and you'll solve the mystery.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 10 -- Things are settling down. Celebrate with pals and come up with more ideas. You and your chums work well together now.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) -- Today is a 5 -- If you're still figuring out what to do with all those pennies, keep saving them until you find the perfect thing.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Keep studying. The new structure has advantages over the old; you just have to learn how to use it. You're doing OK.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Follow through on a project; don't start a new one now. This could be quite lucrative, by the way.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Your partner's crazy scheme could actually work. It'll take faith and determination, and a little help from friends.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 5 -- A brilliant idea, using what you already have, solves the problem. This suggestion could come from a roommate.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Continue to learn how to play the game. You have natural talent. You'll be good at this once you know the ropes.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 6 -- Keep shopping for the perfect thing. Exercise self-discipline. Odds are good you'll find an amazing bargain.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Stick to the budget and the rules. Play it by the book. You may learn something about the regulations.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 6 -- Look through your storage bins for the perfect thing. You know it's there; try to find it before buying new.


Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Your brilliant suggestion solves the problem. You don't have to say "I told you so." Be compassionate and wise.

(Daily Horoscope Alerts Subscription. \$9.99/mo. Text your sign to 94847. Std msg charges apply. Txt HELP for info, STOP to cancel. Cust. Svc: 1-866-663-3313.)

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DOWNTIME

Page 13 • Monday, August 31, 2009

Classifieds coordinator
• Emily Frost
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