

The Crimson White



UA needs permanent 24-hour study space
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Six Tide players looking to be drafted
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'Akeelah and the Bee' spells C-L-I-C-H-È
ENTERTAINMENT, Page 6

Friday, April 28, 2006

Serving the University of Alabama since 1894

Vol. 112, Issue 124

UA students arrested in drug bust

Four charged after police raid fraternity houses Tuesday night

By ELLEN BURKE
Contributing Writer

Police raided two UA fraternity houses and arrested four students Tuesday night after police said the students sold marijuana to undercover officers over a one-week period from inside the houses.

Andrew Bowman, Dewey Belcher, Tyler Stapp and Bryan Traywick were each charged with counts of

unlawful distribution of marijuana, said Capt. Jeff Snyder of the Tuscaloosa police, leader of the West Alabama Narcotics Task Force.

Snyder didn't say how much marijuana was seized. There were no trafficking charges, indicating that the amount was less than 2.2 pounds.

Their charges are also enhanced because the distribution took place near the University. Under Alabama law, five years of prison time can be added to the two-to-20 year penalty for unlawful distribution.

In addition to one count of selling near a school, Traywick

was also charged with possession of marijuana in the first degree.

Bowman, Belcher and Stapp were each charged with two counts of selling near a school, and Bowman also with possession of marijuana in the second degree.

"We actually bought the drugs from all four of the arrested students," Snyder said. Snyder said the drugs were bought inside of the Delta Chi and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity houses. Stapp is a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, while Traywick, Bowman and Belcher are members of Delta Chi, Snyder said.

Though the arrests occurred on the same night, the incidents at the two houses were not related, Snyder said.

On Tuesday evening the task force searched two rooms in the Delta Chi house, and one room at Sigma Phi Epsilon, Snyder said.

"The whole fraternities were not searched," he said.

UA police officers were used in the raid, as well as the task force, which is a multi-jurisdictional group, Snyder said.

Snyder said the undercover activity "could have gone on longer, but we were pressed for time because the University

is about to get out for the summer."

"UA Student Affairs officials are investigating the arrests and have met with members of the fraternities and their chapter advisers," UA spokeswoman Cathy Andreen said, reading from a statement.

She declined any further comment on the situation.

Approached at the house Wednesday, several members of the Delta Chi declined to comment. Attempts to contact Sigma Phi Epsilon were also unsuccessful.

"This was definitely an

individual instance, with an individual member of our chapter," Sigma Phi Epsilon President Cal LaGroue told The Tuscaloosa News. "We're taking these allegations seriously, and Sigma Phi Epsilon does not condone this kind of activity."

All of the students have been released on bail Wednesday, The News reported.

Belcher is a sophomore majoring in general business administration and Stapp is a junior majoring in operations management and marketing, according to their Facebook.com profiles.

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Streets near Quad could close in '07

Campus master plan draft calls for Sixth Avenue, Capstone and Colonial Drives to close

By WESLEY HALLMAN
Staff Reporter
■ hallman@cw.ua.edu

UA President Robert Witt has said multiple times that he wants to make the campus more pedestrian-friendly, with more bike trails and sidewalks.

Part of that transition could come next fall when the University closes three roads surrounding the Quad to through traffic if the UA System Board of Trustees approves.

Sixth Avenue, Capstone Drive and Colonial Drive will be closed to through traffic starting in fall 2007 and will be converted into transit and bicycle lanes, according to the latest draft of the campus master plan presented at a forum Wednesday night by Darrell Meyer, a consultant for the KPS group, which has been hired by the University to help craft the plan.

Meyer said the lanes would remain open to UA service vehicles and emergency

vehicles, and each building would still have handicapped parking available, but the streets would not be accessible to faculty and student vehicles.

Transit stations will be opened on Capstone Drive in front of Gorgas Library, Meyer said, to serve 16 buses that will transport students from planned parking lots on the outer edges of UA property to the center of campus.

The updated plan calls for new parking structures on the east side of campus near the new University Medical Center and on the north side near new and planned freshman housing complexes.

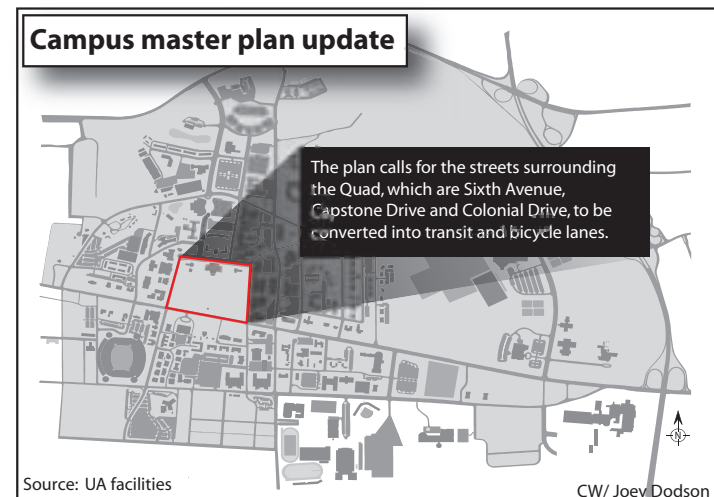
Meyer said he expects the transit system to run about 22 hours a day once it is in place.

Students and faculty will receive a map of the system at some point during the 2006-07 academic year so they can have time to prepare for the implementation of the system in 2007, he said.

"If it is safe, efficient, clean

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On the web
www.uafacilities.ua.edu



SPECIAL REPORT ■ THE LAST DAYS OF THE DKE HOUSE



ABOVE: The Delta Kappa Epsilon house is the oldest fraternity house on campus. It was completed in 1916 and is shown here in 1917. BELOW: The DKE house now sits in the shadow of the Bryant-Denny Stadium expansion. The house will be razed in May.



Built on a Hill

DKEs, alumni to give campus' oldest frat house living funeral

By NICK BEADLE
Managing Editor, News
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It sits on what's left of the hill like an old woman waiting to die, thinking about the good times she had with the boys when she was young.

The boys will come and mourn her tonight: The old ones, who still care for her and came back to visit on pleasant autumn afternoons.

The younger ones, who are with her now, but probably won't realize what she meant to them until she's gone.

They will come and give her a living funeral, talking and drinking under white tents in parking lots that are not theirs, remembering all the good times while trying not to get too much dust from the gravel on their nice shoes and slacks.

See **DKE**, Page 3

Students want biodegradable containers in Ferg

Some students concerned about non-recyclable trash

By CHARITY SCOTT
Contributing Writer

UA student Joseph Wright used to order a cold vegetable wrap, hold the Styrofoam plate, every week in the Ferguson Center for lunch.

But when he was told that health regulations mandated that he had to put his wrap on one of the disposable plates offered by the Ferg, the conscientious objector to non-biodegradable materials

faced a dilemma. "I couldn't get any food that day," Wright said.

Wright responded to this decision by taking action. He and several other New College students have sent e-mails to Jerry Frye, senior food service director of Bama Dining, asking that Bama Dining provide recyclable or biodegradable containers. They also have offered suggestions for implementing a more environmentally friendly system.

The plastic containers currently used in the Ferg have

See **FERG**, Page 2



Some UA students want the Ferguson Center to provide biodegradable or non-disposable plates, utensils and cups.

IN CAMPUS brief

For more visit www.cw.ua.edu.
To submit a brief, e-mail news@cw.ua.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

University Blvd. sidewalk to reopen Friday

The University Boulevard sidewalk that runs from Stadium Drive to Wallace Wade Drive will reopen today after being closed for most of the semester as part of the construction of the new Bryant-Denny Stadium Plaza.

The old sidewalk has been replaced with a red-brick walkway. The plaza, whose construction will cause the razing of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity house, the oldest on campus, next month, is scheduled to be completed in early August.

It will feature markers for each of the Crimson Tide football program's SEC and national championships as well as bronze statues of the four men who have coached the Tide to national championships: Wallace Wade, Frank Thomas, Paul "Bear" Bryant and Gene Stallings.

Volunteer Week to end Sunday

National Volunteer Week will wrap at the Capstone with volunteer events today and Sunday.

Today, there will be a student workday with Habitat for Humanity from noon to 5 p.m.

On Sunday, Tuscaloosa One Place's Brazierstos and Open Arms will hold a Hispanic Health Fair at the Northport Civic Center from noon to 6 p.m.

For more information, call the center at 348-2865, visit its office at 355 Ferguson Center or visit volunteer.ua.edu.


Birthday gift lecture on civil liberties today

When Jeremy Waldron, the director of Columbia University's Center for Law and Philosophy, delivers his lecture on "Waterboarding and Archetypes: The Importance of the Rule Against Torture," it will be more than a lecture on civil liberties.

It will be a 60th birthday gift for Carl Sosnin given by his friend and former classmate Margie Brooke. She paid \$500 and with a matching contribution from her employer, Birmingham's Vulcan Materials, started the Carl Sosnin Civil Liberties Lecture based on her friend's interests.

The lecture will be today at 3:30 p.m. in 258 ten Hoor Hall.

WEATHER



Today
81°/57°
Mostly sunny.

Saturday
76°/56°
A 50 percent chance of rain.

Sunday
73°/54°
Rain likely with possible thunderstorms.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's like losing a 90-year-old grandmother."
— John McNeil, Delta Kappa Epsilon house corporation adviser and DKE and UA alumnus, on losing the DKE house in May.
See: "Built on a Hill,"
Page 1.

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■ SGA SENATE

Senate OKs freshman First Year Council

Meal plan, print credit resolutions also passed

By LORI CREEL
Senior Staff Reporter
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A First Year Council will be created to provide feedback to the SGA Senate about freshman issues, according to a bill SGA senators passed at their last meeting of the academic year Thursday.

College of Arts and Sciences

Sen. William Bloom, who authored the bill, said the council of 50 freshmen would be selected through an application process to represent each residence hall. Each residence hall would have at least one representative, with the number of representatives proportional to the number of freshmen in each residence hall.

The council would hold bimonthly "dorm caucuses" to get input from other freshmen and then would meet

the other two weeks to pass resolutions with recommendations to give to the Senate, he said. The council would not be an active body like the SGA Senate, Bloom said.

"We are not giving away our power to the dormitories," he said.

Bloom said the First Year Council would differ from Freshman Forum because it would have direct contact with Senate and make recommendations to them on issues for freshmen.

Senators also approved a resolution authored by College of Education Sen. Alex Chandler that recommends the University allow students the same refund option for meal plans that they have for Dining Dollars. Chandler said he hopes to have the resolution implemented since freshmen will be required to have meal plans in the fall.

The resolution suggests that Bama Dining allow meals left-

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FERG

Continued from Page 1

triangular symbols marked with either a six or seven, which relates to what kind of plastic the container is made of. Only containers marked with a one or two can be recycled.

Wright said he found plastic containers made from corn that are 100 percent biodegradable, but they are almost twice as expensive.

"I would be more than willing to pay the extra 10 cents per container with my food to make up for that extra cost," Wright said.

However, not everyone who eats in the Ferg seems turned on to the idea of paying a little

more to have biodegradable containers.

"Ten cents seems like a really small amount at first, but that could really add up over the course of the semester, especially when you're using Dining Dollars and Bama Cash," freshman Megan Esco said. "As much as I care about the environment, my pocket-book is my first priority."

The other alternative Wright offered was simply to allow environmentally conscious students to order food without the Styrofoam containers.

Dining services at other universities across the country have already taken steps towards being more environmentally conscious.

Dining halls, greek houses and campus restaurants at

PLAN

Continued from Page 1

students will ride it," Meyer said.

Meyer also said the updated plan calls for the construction of a performing arts center and a welcome center on University Boulevard at the intersection of Bryce Hospital Drive.

It also calls for more "green space" on campus by creating another quad near the freshman housing.

Meyer said the welcome center would serve as a place where visiting high school students and their parents can start their tour of the University.

"We want to expand the University image outwards so that people will know when they have arrived at the University of Alabama," Meyer said.

Meyer also said that signs would be added around campus to let visitors know where they can find parking and places to eat, among other things.

Signs similar to the new structure being built in front of Bryant-Denny Stadium will be added at six main entrances around the outer edge of campus, and the signs that currently stand in front of buildings around campus will also be updated with more crimson coloring, Meyer said.

The UA community can submit input about the campus master plan on the UA facilities Web site. Dan Wolfe, UA associate director of facilities planning, said his office has received more than 100 comments on the plan so far through the Web site, and "a lot of the ideas have been integrated into the plan."

Meyer said added parking on the east side of campus and a transit route back and forth to the parking lot was an idea that was submitted through the Web site.

"The ideas that have been submitted have been very helpful," Meyer said. "They were obviously submitted with really deep thought, and we've taken them seriously."

Meyer said the campus

the University of California at Berkeley save their pre-consumer food scraps for worm and pile composting, which is then bagged and sold at local farmers markets, plant nurseries and in the bulk landscaping market.

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, food waste from the kitchen and dishwashing areas of Lenoir Dining Hall has been collected for off-site composting since fall 2000.

Frye could not be contacted for comment this week. Wright

also said he hasn't heard back since he and others began writing to Bama Dining about the issue.

Andy Donnellan, the resident district manager for Aramark, the corporation that owns Bama Dining and handles UA food service, said that Bama Dining was interested in working with Wright to find a solution.

"We can certainly look into the issue and see how we can improve things and what the cost would be," Donnellan said.



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DKE

Continued from Page 1

When they are done, they will take what they can from her and move on to something new — something that does not smell like impending death.

And when the end comes, she will be almost as alone on that hill as she was when it started, right up until the second they knock her down and take her and the rest of the hill away.

For the men of the UA chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon, the wrecking ball that ends the life of the Capstone's oldest fraternity house in May will kill a family member — a matriarch who can no longer survive as the campus changes around her, but will not be sent into oblivion without being reminded by her boys what she meant to them.

"It's like losing a 90-year-old grandmother," said John McNeil, who lived in the house for two years while he was a UA student between 1975 and 1979. "We're losing that. We're not losing any of the heritage or anything like that — that will go with us in the new house. We're just losing the 'Mansion on the Hill.'"

McNeil heads a group of DKE alumni behind efforts to relocate the fraternity after the mansion meets its end May 23 to make room for a new plaza and grand entrance for an expanded Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Ground will be broken on a new house across the street in August as the old mansion, and the hill it stood on for 90 years is replaced by red-brick sidewalks and bronze statues of Alabama's national champion football coaches Wallace Wade, Frank Thomas, Paul "Bear" Bryant and Gene Stallings.

While the house is being built, the DKEs will be centered in a Bryce Lawn apartment building on the east side of campus next year. A 3,000-foot temporary dining and meeting hall with restrooms

and a kitchen on 18 wheels will be deposited next to the their temporary home.

Losing the mansion was the last thing many of the DKEs wanted, McNeil said, but no one fights football at the University of Alabama and wins — especially if it grew up in your back yard.

"We wanted to fight it and fight it and fight it, but we knew it wasn't good for us and it wasn't good for the University," he said. "We're strong supporters of the athletics. The athletics have known how hard it is for us to move."

There first

The mansion was there first — years before Wade put football on the road to being a religion in Alabama; more than a decade before Bryant took his first snap in an Alabama uniform for Thomas and generations before Stallings ever set foot on campus.

It was born on then University Avenue in 1916 in a time when most students and alumni were wary of the Capstone's greek system, according to a March historical survey of the DKE house. Survey author Thomas Shelby writes that many independent men on campus complained that the greeks were a "self-constituted aristocracy" that snobbed them from campus politics and athletics. In 1915, a bill banning greek organizations from state schools was barely defeated by the Alabama Legislature.

But George Denny, the University's most prolific president, wanted that aristocracy on campus, instead of deposited in rental houses around Tuscaloosa, to make their lives healthier and more intertwined with the UA community. Phi Gamma Delta built its chapter house on campus in 1914, and soon many fraternities, including DKE, had planted their homes along the west section of University Avenue.

The "Mansion on the Hill" nickname came soon after the DKEs emigrated from their rented house on Queen City

For more

on the Delta Kappa Epsilon house and for more photos see Page 5.

Avenue, because, other than the mansion and the hill, there was little else save a road, a field and a cemetery across the way.

As the mansion sat through the 20th century, football and the rest of the University slowly encroached on its territory. Many fraternities plopped their mansions along University, though many ended up on the east side of campus by the end of 1960s and '70s when New Row came together, Shelby writes. Denny Stadium opened in 1929 with 12,000 seats and kept finding ways to get bigger every few decades, finally taking on Bryant's name in 1975.

On an island

Now the mansion's surrounded, holed up. The stadium grows larger and more looming behind its back. Work on the plaza and impending doom digs closer to its face.

Most of the hill is now a brown manmade chasm waiting to be filled with sod, shrubbery red brick and streetlights.

"It's the 'Mansion on the Island' now," McNeil said. "You didn't realize how big that hill was until the hill was gone."

It's harder to get the boys to come spend time with the house now — even for dinner. Stadium construction has taken their parking away and the house has seen much better days.

Only a little more than 10 or so members still live in the house. Some, like David Hawley, have moved out since

January because of the construction. They're tired of waking up to find their parking lot is replaced with piles of gravel and the cacophony of the machines gnawing through what was once their front yard.

"When they were digging up the promenade or whatever, it was just right there," said Hawley, a junior majoring in real estate finance, who moved out in February. "It always seemed like every day they would dig up a water line or a gas line or something. One day I couldn't take a shower because the water was off."

The cruel consequences of age and hard living have set in. Her once elegant looks are wrinkled, dented and worn, her insides failing.

Handcrafted door frames hang tentatively over bedroom entrances. Mildew scars, thought to be from a poor attempt to do laundry

that ended with soapy water cascading down the house's front stairwell, rot away in the dining hall ceiling.

"This house is like a really fine antique," said Beau Fleming, a DKE member and a senior majoring in health studies. "It's kind of sad to have to do anything."

Many facelifts

Operations have kept the house looking fresh and alive, the biggest of which was in 1962. The mansion was gutted and remade, according to Shelby's historical survey, as its kitchen was expanded and its second-floor sleeping porch, a room full of bunk beds where every member slept, was converted to several cramped bedrooms to which two men were assigned. The rooms are private now.

The house paid a price to look modern, however. Shelby

writes that the 1962 renovations were "tactless" and killed much of what made the house distinctive at the time, like Venetian gable windows and a latticed porch. The operation

See **DKE**, Page 5

Mens, Ladies, and Children



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SENATE

Continued from Page 2

into the spring semester, but after that students wouldn't receive refunds for the meals they haven't used.

Chandler said the way meal plans are set up is unfair to students and that he personally has lost hundreds of dollars in unused meals, and he won't buy another meal plan.

"It's a total rip-off," he said.

The Senate student affairs committee tabled a bill authored by College of Education Sen. Samantha Simmons that would institute runoff elections for executive offices. Bloom, chairman of the committee, said committee members thought the bill was written too soon after the runoff vote failed to get ratified after receiving less than two-thirds of the vote during the spring election.

Bloom said passing the bill right after students voted against the runoff would

make it appear that senators will pass bills and resolutions until they get the outcome they want.

"Failure has to mean something to a certain extent," he said. "We have to follow the will of the students."

Senators also passed a resolution that recommends the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration allow students 300 print credits to use in the Bashinsky Computer Center.

C&BA Sen. Wade Smith, who authored the resolution, said all students have 300 print credits in the other computer labs on campus, and until recently they could print in the Bashinsky computer lab.

"I think it's ridiculous to have to pay to print when every other lab on campus is free," Smith said.

Other resolutions approved include:

- A resolution that recommends the University evaluate academic buildings and

residence halls to make sure they are wheelchair accessible.

- A resolution that asks Bama Dining to review dining options, especially the Ferguson Center Food Court, to make sure they are open during advertised hours and offer the advertised food options.

- A resolution that recommends the SGA create a scholarship to help recruit high school seniors who have been leaders in their schools to become members of SGA.

- A resolution that recommends the University place vending machines in all libraries.

- A resolution that commends the University and the 2005-06 SGA Senate for creating the annual Human Rights Symposium.

- A resolution that recommends the SGA publish a list of realtors and landlords who receive their "Seal of Approval" to help inform students when they look for housing.

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Our View

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Have you ever sat down to study in your dorm room, apartment or house only to realize an hour later you're still staring at the first page of your notebook? Chances are, you just nodded or quietly said "yes" out loud.

Studying for final exams (or any exam for that matter) is not a fun or easy thing to do. It's even harder when there are numerous distractions lying within reach. The TV is just begging to be turned on. Your computer is longing for you to check your e-mail, get on Facebook or chat on AOL Instant Messenger. Then there's your cell phone staring at you, beaming your friends' numbers into your head.

Or, maybe you are a super student and can avoid those material distractions, but you've got a roommate who goes to bed at 10 p.m. or a noisy upstairs neighbor playing Michael Jackson's "Thriller" on his bass.

No matter what your distraction is, you don't have to worry when it comes time to study for final exams this semester. UA officials announced earlier this week that Gorgas Library will remain open 24/7 during Dead Week and finals week.

We think this is a great idea — and one that's long overdue. Students have increasingly erratic schedules, and there's always someone pulling an all-nighter. Almost every night when Gorgas closes, it kicks students out.

Let's face it — there aren't really any other options in Tuscaloosa. If you want a quiet place to study, the library is ideal, and Gorgas Library is in a good central location on campus.

There's also the Java City coffee shop area of Gorgas that provides essential caffeine and nutrition to students that need to be reenergized. While we love the idea of free coffee after 2 a.m., we wouldn't mind if Java City stays open 24/7 along with the library. In fact, we think it should. The income generated from the coffee and snacks would be a one way to fund the extra workers needed during the extended library hours.

So we commend the University for implementing this change during the next two weeks and challenge UA officials to go a step further. Make the new library hours permanent year round. Of course, it'll be fine to close on holidays and Saturdays. (Who studies on game day anyway?)

This simple change will mean a lot to students, plus it will make our school more attractive to prospective students we are trying to recruit. Many research universities offer 24-hour study spaces, and the University shouldn't be any different.

Our View is the consensus of the CW editorial board.

Letter to the Editor

Parking a problem for everyone

I am currently sitting at the Starbucks in the Ferguson Center listening to two commuters gripe about the parking situation next year, specifically about the administration's decision to change the Ferg parking lot into parking for north residents only.

I am excited about the change, but I am a north resident who lives in Rose Towers. These girls are less than pleased. Perhaps if these girls visited Riverside or Rose Towers they would know that there is no parking after 7 p.m. because there is a severe lack of spaces for every resident that lives in these two dorms.

With Lakeside being built to accommodate on-campus freshmen next year, the administration has chosen to only put in 200 more parking spaces even though Lakeside will house twice as many residents.

I am excited that finally I might have a place to park, but in reality I know that the Rose Towers parking lot will still be overcrowded. Rose

Towers residents also won't have a right to their own parking lot and will be walking down the hill at night to home.

I don't have much sympathy for those who choose to live off campus not having somewhere to park because you choose to live off campus and drive to class.

The displacement of off-campus commuters is unfortunate, but when I have to walk up the hill every day and go to class, I don't see how it will kill commuters to walk across campus as well. We can only pray that the administration chooses to implement a timely and accurate transit system to ease on-campus congestion and provide students with a way to get from class to class in inclement weather.

As for these girls sitting behind me, they sound like whiners, and I hope they enjoy their hike across campus next year. I just wonder if they can actually park next to their houses or apartments. I can't. I have to hike home at night.

Samantha Perry
Senior, political science

And I'm almost back home

To protest outrageous gas prices, my normal commute home — all 11-plus miles — was made on foot for one night. This is the continuing story of that walk home.

Time: 12:50 a.m.
Elapsed time: two hours, 24 minutes
Total mileage: 5.8 miles
Car honks: two (and one yelp)
Spooks: one

"\$2.89? ... damn," I said to no one in particular as I got close enough to read the prices at Buddy's.

When I filled up my van to the tune of \$68.42 on Friday, the going rate for the cheap grade was \$2.78. In the four days since then, gas had gone up 11 cents.

What exactly happened to make gas more than a dime more expensive? Did it suddenly become just a little more valuable? Did another family in China buy a car? Was it two, maybe three more car bombs in Iraq? It's just ridiculous.

Even though Buddy's is still open, the place is pretty quiet, empty aside from a big rig parked near the exit and a forgotten dirty diaper a few feet away from the curb where I'm



My View

Will Nevin
nevin@cw.ua.edu

collecting my thoughts.

Physically, things are still going OK. My feet are beginning to burn and ache, and I'm starting to really feel the hills. Still, I don't think I'm exhausted yet.

Almost within shouting distance of the gas station is a huge house. I'm no real estate connoisseur, but I'd have to say it's worth something close to \$1 million. It's a massive brick castle, lit up 24 hours a day and surrounded by a gate and even more bricks. Do the people who live there have to worry about gas prices? Do they have to pay in those Lincolns and Hamiltons? I'm guessing that, unless they trade in oil futures, they could care less about the prices at Buddy's.

A nice breeze, blowing right into my face, has picked up from the south. While it most often carries the scent of death or decay, the wind is nice.

I chugged the other half of the water bottle. On to the next stop.

Time: 1:53 a.m.
Elapsed time: three hours, 27 minutes
Total mileage: 7.9 miles
Car honks: two (and one yelp)
Spooks: one
Road kill almost stepped on: one (snake)

I wanted to make it farther since I'm nearing the outskirts of Moundville, but I just had to stop. My pace went from a meander to a standing crawl. I kept looking at a light on top of a hill, thinking that I could will myself to the light if I thought hard enough about it. When the light just seemed to get farther and farther away, I knew I had to stop.

I'm at the Big Sandy Food Mart, a gas station and outpost of Moundville, so I am making progress. I just hope it won't take forever to get to that light.

In these last few miles, I've started to focus less on my surroundings and more on what I'm going to do when I get home and on my day off tomorrow. When I get to 40316 Highway 69, Moundville, Ala., there are cold drinks in the fridge and a soft bed waiting on me. Tomorrow, the Yankees are playing a day game in Toronto. Things to look forward to for sure.

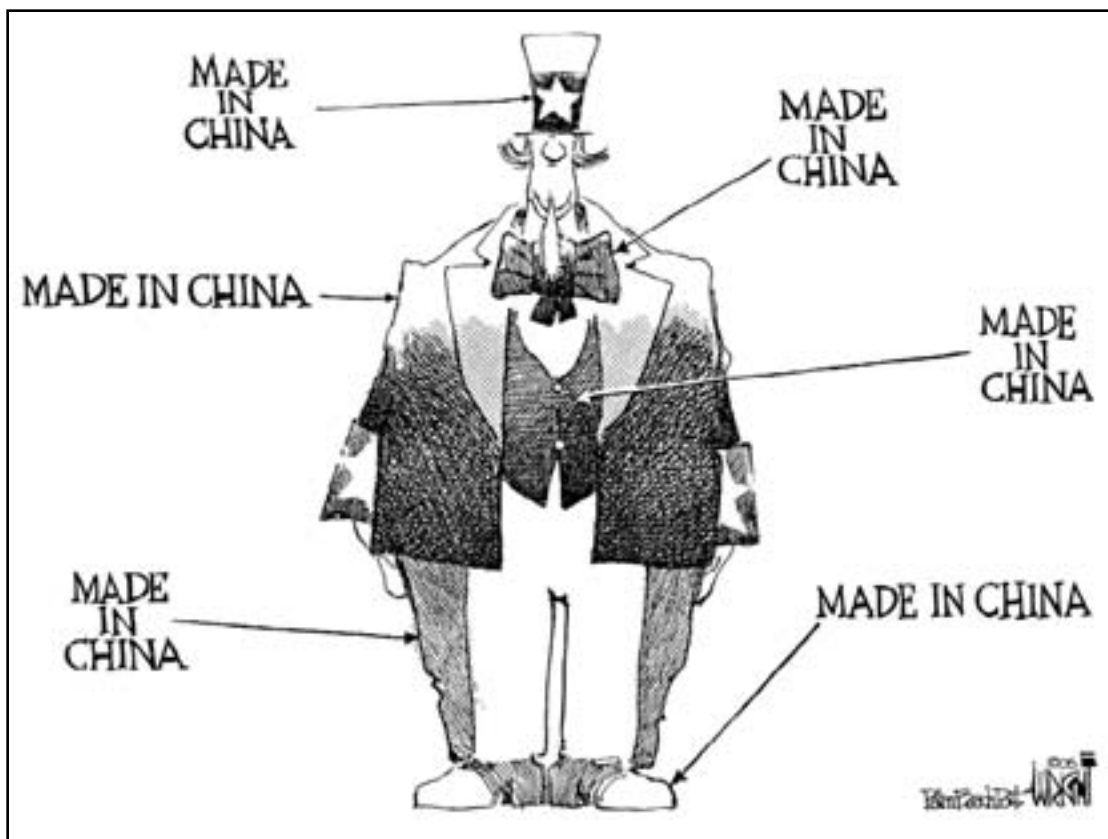
The moon, that lazy bum, has finally made an appearance. A sliver more than a half moon, it's shrouded in a hazy blanket of clouds. It wouldn't be much help, I suppose, but it's nice to see some light.

The Big Sandy Food Mart, just like the rest of Moundville, closed up shop and rolled up carpets hours ago. At a certain point of the night, life stops in my little city, put on hold until morning. For Moundville, that point is now.

Gas prices at this station are *only* \$2.83. You know, the cheap stuff.

Chug the other bottle of water. Drag yourself home.

Will Nevin is the opinions editor of *The Crimson White*. His next column will appear on Wednesday.



KRT Campus

SENIOR FAREWELL

What if there was nothing to lose?

By MARY MARGARET CARROLL

The night of June 11, 1963, President Kennedy addressed the nation about racial equality as a moral issue. For the first time, he acknowledged it was a national issue. Earlier that day, Alabama Governor George Wallace made his Stand in the Schoolhouse Door.

I am not writing to talk about Foster Auditorium. Instead, I want to focus on Kennedy's decision. It shows that no matter how obvious the right choice may be, political consequences are considered in real-world decision making.

Wouldn't the world be perfect if our leaders had absolutely *nothing to lose* by always doing the right thing?

Luckily for you, college is not the real world. As students, our leaders have *nothing to lose* by standing up for us. This privilege is often taken for granted because campus politics is taken too seriously.

During my time here, I've had the opportunity to work

with two types of people: loyal public servants and aspiring politicians. In the end, those with a sincere desire to serve come out on top because their actions speak louder than words. Playing real-world politics is irrelevant. SGA is not a political organization. The SGA's resources are meant to benefit everyone, and there is nothing stopping you from taking advantage.

Looking at things differently is an education in itself. Isn't that what we are here for? After all, if your convictions are correct, then you'll only become stronger by challenging your own judgment. Pessimism or resistance without reason might be comfortable, but you're really holding yourself back.

I ran for office because I had *nothing to lose*. The election alone taught me more than I could have imagined about respecting others, true friend-



Mary Margaret Carroll

ship and believing in myself.

I was able to hold my position *only* because you elected me, and I am honored and truly grateful. But 10 years from now, I am not going to remember "being SGA president." What I am going to

remember are the situations that had a profound impact on me and the lessons I learned.

■ I defended myself against false allegations and personal attacks for weeks and realized how ugly the game of politics can be.

■ I studied in Europe.

■ I saw the disastrous effects of Hurricane Katrina in the eyes of fellow students and watched people join to help one another.

■ I attended the funeral for Vivian Malone Jones and took part in the memorial service here. I am unable to fathom her actions, but I appreciate

them more every day.

■ I saw a friend's death exploited in the news and read false statements attributed to my close friends as they mourned the loss of their best friend. This taught me to take what people write about me very lightly and thank God that I am able to defend myself if misquoted or misinterpreted. In this case, the mistakes were irreversible.

■ And, I learned to have more faith in God than ever before when two of the most encouraging people I have ever known passed away — my grandmother and, a few weeks later, Will Demeranville.

Above all, what I have been most grateful for this year is the support of my friends and their ability to keep me doing what I love more than anything else, laughing and having a good time.

Mary Margaret Carroll, the 2005-06 SGA president, will graduate in May with a degree in English. Log on to www.cw.ua.edu for her full farewell column.



Contributed by W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library through DKE

DKE

Continued from Page 3

also tacked on fire escapes and window air conditioning units that were “unsightly,” according to the survey.

There were minor surgeries performed before and after the 1962 renovation and the 1970 addition of a ballroom. Problems would be repaired and walls would be repainted every year before school began to keep the house fresh and strong — until this year, McNeil said.

With the mansion acquiring new afflictions every day, it has become harder to justify each procedure meant to ward off a death that is so close, said Gwen Burt, 69, DKE's house mother since 1998.

“Toward the end, you have to try not to spend money on the sink and stove,” she said. “That’s not the attitude you have, though, when the old people are coming back one last time.”

‘Can’t go back home’

The old boys will be back tonight for one of the DKEs’ most infamous traditions, “Undertaker’s Ball.” The event, started in 1957, is a living funeral for a DKE member, a “dead man” chosen by means cloaked in stock fraternity secrecy.

After an extravagant funeral procession, the chosen DKE member is eulogized by a “preacher,” one of his fraternity brothers, while he does his best corpse impression. At some point, there’s a fraternity party.

Tonight there will be a funeral band, there will be a mule-drawn carriage, there will be a procession, but no dead man eulogized — only the Mansion on the Hill. Men who pledged DKE as far back as the 1930s will return to say kind words about the mansion and the times with it.

In all, McNeil said, about 900 to 950 alumni — and dates — are expected to flood into the house and pack tents set up in the few neighboring parking lots that the stadium construction hasn’t completely eaten up.

It’s appropriate, however, given the impression the event leaves on many DKEs. McNeil said the 1979 ball, in which he was the dead man, was his favorite experience with the house.

But the house is also reminds him of when Alabama rarely lost a football game, or when the DKEs defied the pale blanket of snow that covered the campus by lighting a bonfire in the house’s front yard.

Another alumnus, Bill de Shazo, a UA student and DKE member from 1974 to 1978, said the event left an impression on him as well, especially the awe it left him in his freshman year.

He related mourning the house to mourning his late father.

“Kind of an empty, hole in the gut kind of thing,” de Shazo said. “It’s kind of like moving from your hometown or something — a ‘can’t go back home’ kind of thing.”

But the event is as much a reaffirmation for the fraternity’s plans for their house’s \$5 million rebirth across the street as it is a tentpole for nostalgia, McNeil said. The fraternity is in the “quiet phase” of the fundraising for the new house. A public campaign will begin during Homecoming in the fall.

Undertaker’s, however, is not a fundraising event, McNeil said.

To protect the memories attached to the mansion, the house has been dressed up like a corpse being made up for a funeral, McNeil said. Gallons of paint have been used to cover up the cosmetic indiscretions caused by age and DKE actives.

Active members don’t have the same attachment to the house of their predecessors. Two weeks ago, one of those indiscretions included jet black graffiti spray-painted on the second floor’s palm green walls.

Warding off such abuse has been harder with the mansion crumbling around them, said Miller Terry, a DKE junior majoring in finance. He said fraternity leadership that would once fine members for breaking spindles on the house’s staircase has been lax in recent months.

“We’ve treated this house like an amusement park,” said Richmond Collinsworth, a DKE freshman also in finance. “We think we can do anything since it’s coming down.”

But Hawley said many members have been nicer to the dying house than most would think.

“You’d think everyone would be throwing stuff through the windows,” he said. “But it’s an old friend. Nobody’s really abused it. You’re going to have some people who want to mess it up sometimes.”

“But there have not been any excessive or regular abuses, considering, you know, the house is about to have a wrecking ball through it.”

Still, active members don’t have the same attachment to the Mansion on the Hill because their mansion hasn’t been built yet, said Stuart Parnell, a DKE sophomore in finance. Their house won’t have mildew in its dining hall or the stink of a nursing home.

“We are going to have a nice house, we’re going to have nicer facilities,” he said. “Losing the history behind the house, yeah, it’s a big deal, but it’s something we’re going to have to deal with.”

“It’s not going to be as big of a deal to us because we’re still here.”

The new house is needed, said Robert Allen, a DKE senior majoring in political science. He said he sees the demolition and construction of the new house not so much as the euthanasia of an old

friend, but something the fraternity needs to compete as a business, to keep getting the opportunity to invest in new members.

Especially now, when other fraternities are building or making major changes to their houses, and the UA administrators instituting a mandatory freshman housing policy while the University turns out attractive, new apartment-style dormitories.

When he leaves the Mansion on the Hill, Allen said, “I want to take the No. 3 off the door, but that’s probably it.”

“A couple of thieves can come in here and walk out empty-handed.”

Rebirth

While current members may not take much from the old building, the house won’t be forgotten in the design of the new mansion. Architectural illustrations look like God will reach down and snatch up the old house, heal its wounds and place it carefully across the street with new wings grafted on.

In reality, the old will be grafted onto the new. Before they let the mansion die next month, they will cut out pieces of its fireplace, mantle and chapter room so they can be transplanted into its successor, McNeil said. Five thousand maroon bricks from the house will be gathered up and used to build a patio behind the new house. Whatever’s left will be sent to the most nostalgic alumni, said Moe Cook, a member of the DKE house staff.

But tonight, they will take care of her, honor her, tell her how much they will miss her when she’s gone and make her final arrangements.

Athletics director Mal Moore will present the marker that will be placed in the plaza to denote where the Mansion on the Hill once stood, McNeil said. She will be alone when she dies. But when she is gone, hundreds, thousands will pass by her grave.

Sending the house out with Undertaker’s is appropriate not just because of its place in the UA DKE chapter’s history, de Shazo said, but the theology of the event that he theorized comes from its membership’s historically strong roots in Mobile and New Orleans, where death is celebrated like any other Mardi Gras.

“For me, it’s just the concept of death and mourning, and, in kind of a twisted way, it’s a religious experience,” he said. “Although there’s a certain amount of drunkenness involved in all that, in its own strange way, it’s kind of like an Easter.”

When the wrecking ball ends the DKE house in a few weeks, the Mansion on the Hill will experience the belief at the heart of Easter. There will be a temporary death, then a rebirth.

Just on the other side of the street.



Contributed by DKE



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CW/ Charley Parden

TOP: The DKE house is shown here circa 1930. **NEXT:** This is an artist’s rendering of the new DKE house, which is set to open in 2007 across University Boulevard on the site where Gorgas Hall used to be. **NEXT:** This was the original site plan for the DKE house in 1916. **NEXT:** Alex Fleming, a sophomore majoring in business management, puts the final touches on hanging the sign for this year’s Undertaker’s Ball.

MOVIE REVIEW

Spend time with Aniston and her new 'Friends'

Refreshing film boasts rich characters, poignant story

By SUZANNE ROBERTSON
Contributing Writer

Jennifer Aniston's film career during and after the 10-year run of "Friends" has been anything but consistent.

She proved herself capable of shedding the Rachel Green persona with her brilliant and heartbreaking turn as Justine in "The Good Girl." But, lately, she hasn't really impressed with such films as "Derailed" and "Rumor Has It."

What it comes down to is that if given the right material and the right co-stars, Aniston works extremely well. "Friends with Money" is a prime example of this theory.

The film focuses on the



Courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

(From left) Frances McDormand, Jennifer Aniston, Catherine Keener and Joan Cusack star in "Friends With Money," which is showing in Tuscaloosa at the Cobb Hollywood 16.

relationships of three married women, their husbands and their unattached friend Olivia (Aniston), as the middle-aged years begin to rear their ugly head.

As the title suggests, each of Olivia's friends have more money than they know what to do with. Olivia, on the

other hand, has been working as a maid since quitting her teaching job, leaving her a few financial problems.

Writer/director Nicole Holofcener's script is smart and stimulating, capturing the feel of a good conversation. Her characters carry immense emotional baggage that at

first seems overly dramatic, but then you realize how authentic it all is.

This is the first film in recent memory to put together a leading cast of four smart women in a clever, realistic film about money and relationships, not to mention casting three of the industry's finest female performers in Frances McDormand, Catherine Keener and Joan Cusack.

Sure, Aniston is showing her true talent here, but the real props go to those three actresses above. Each individually crafts a real woman that is dynamic, deep and funny in her own way—something you just don't see often enough on the big screen.

McDormand is in fine form, creating an identifiable

woman who's hilarious while being depressed. The always-amazing Keener is outstanding as well in her portrayal of a woman sleepwalking through life. Cusack is excellent as the straight character, leaving behind her usual comedic roles.

"Friends with Money" combines subtle humor, sharp dialogue and outstanding performances to produce a finely crafted, poignant tale about real relationships. Each character you meet is well defined, a tendency disregarded by many recent ensemble dramas.

Rating:



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'Akeelah' full of inspirational mush

Cliché after cliché wrecks this typical motivational piece

By PHIL OWEN
Contributing Writer

"Akeelah and the Bee" is the third entry into the group of movies about spelling bees that have come out in recent years. The first, "Spellbound," was a great documentary on the subject. The second, "Bee Season," was an absolutely atrocious melodrama, among the worst of last year.

Because of what I see as a weird twist of karma, this story of an inner-city girl who rises above all obstacles to compete in the national bee falls exactly in the middle of the spectrum between the two previously mentioned movies. It's not the trash that "Bee Season" is, but it doesn't come close to the quality of "Spellbound."

"Akeelah and the Bee" does have one extremely special thing going for it, though: Keke Palmer in the title role. Palmer, who is 12 years old, has the acting chops to become something special. In truth, she shows better range in this movie than the overrated Dakota Fanning. If this movie is remembered at all past next month, it will be because of her.

The first half or so of the movie is excellent. It moves at a brisk pace, never letting the audience become bored but still developing the characters. During this section



Courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Angela Basset, bottom left, stars with Keke Palmer, bottom right, in "Akeelah and the Bee," which opens in Tuscaloosa today at the Cobb Hollywood 16.

of the film, I was very happy with it and hopeful for a good inspirational story. Adding to the goodness were the usually good Angela Basset and Laurence Fishburne.

At some point, though, Fishburne switches into Morpheus mode, and the movie begins throwing around clichés left and right. For the rest of the running time, all

the good will that the film had built up in me was slowly sucked out until it ended, and I was left very unsatisfied.

In the end, this movie is just another clichéd inspirational flick.

Rating:



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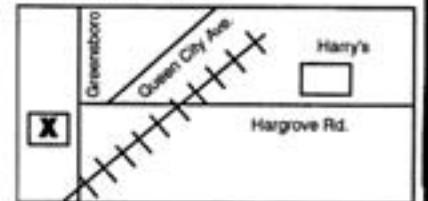
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Crossword

ACROSS
1 Menagerie
4 Bloodsucking fly
10 Brunswick or mulligan
14 Outback bird
15 Brennan or Heckart
16 Entreat earnestly
17 Pismire
18 terrible (brat)
19 Trendy fashion
20 Ignites
22 Bill's partner
23 Even-steven
24 Cheerleader's cry
25 Grange workers
27 Physics particle
29 Source of diner music
30 As we speak
31 Social conventions
32 Vermin
36 Eggnog seasoning
38 Club Med, e.g.
39 Knock-out gas
40 Santa follower
43 Prevaricate
44 Tiny life form
46 Uproar
47 Old West gunfights
50 Barbara Geddes
51 At hand
52 Play division
53 Just about
56 Against
57 Leone
59 Status
60 Chief exec
61 Fortuneteller's cards
62 Coffee holder
63 "Auld Lang"
64 Most foxy
65 Thumbs up

DOWN
1 Enthusiasm
2 Old Dodge
3 Natural result
4 Comb prongs
5 Reprehensible actions
6 Grimm imp
7 Scone
8 Hombres of La Mancha
9 Put in a pyramid
10 Extra charges
11 Get into condition
12 ___ on (incited)
13 Undesirable plants
21 Cured pork
25 Hairy coat
26 Wishes
27 Comic Meara
28 Track tipster
29 Training run
31 Be worthy of
33 "To be or not to be..." e.g.
34 Threesome
35 Leave text in!
37 Learn by rote
38 Regret bitterly
40 Most vital
41 Powerball, for one
42 "Washboard" muscles
45 Seaboards
46 "Losing My Religion" group
47 Photos
48 Clay or Frick
49 Like some cereals
50 Explosion
53 Liberal pursuits?
54 Positive
55 Heavy loads
58 Fish eggs

The 4th Annual UA Student Film and Video Awards Showcase will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd at 7:30 PM at the Bama Theatre. There will be a reception preceding the Showcase at 6:30 PM. This showcase will highlight the outstanding video and film work produced by UA students throughout the year. Admission is \$1 and will be charged at the door. The Showcase is sponsored by the Telecommunication and Film Department.

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In Print and Online

Tide players anxiously await NFL Draft

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

With the NFL Draft set for Saturday, numerous former Alabama football players are in a holding pattern as they wait to see where their careers will take them next.

Former quarterback Brodie Croyle said he's been pretty relaxed over the past week.

"I'm ready to find out where I'm going and where my home is going to be," Croyle said. "My agent and my parents are about to go berserk with what they've heard on ESPN and stuff. I'm not nervous, just anxious more than anything."

Croyle, a 2005 UA graduate, garnered a host of awards for his senior campaign, which saw him end his career ranked first in career completions, attempts, yards and touchdowns.

He was named the offensive MVP of the 2006 Cotton Bowl for the Crimson Tide's 13-10 victory over Texas Tech.

In 2005, Croyle was also a finalist for the Johnny Unitas Award, a semifinalist for the Davey O'Brien Award and the Sports Illustrated Midseason SEC MVP.

Croyle will spend Saturday with his family and grandparents at his parents' home in Rainbow City.

Of the 24 seniors from the 2005 Tide football team, six are expected to be drafted on Saturday: Croyle, linebacker DeMeco Ryans, strong safety Charlie Peprah, free safety Roman Harper, linebacker Freddie Roach and defensive end Mark Anderson.

"Our senior class, we were the tightest in the country and



CW/T.G. Paschal

Former Tide quarterback Brodie Croyle is expected to be chosen late in the first or early in the second round of the NFL Draft Saturday.

the closest to come through Alabama," Croyle said. "It'd be fun to end up together with one of them, but the chances of that are not too great."

"I'm going to be rooting for every one of those guys on draft day."

Croyle isn't the only one of these former Tide players who wrapped up a successful collegiate career in December.

Ryans became one of the most decorated players in Tide history during his senior year. He is a December 2005 UA graduate, finishing his degree in seven semesters.

Ryans earned consensus

All-American honors, was named the 2005 SEC Defensive Player of the Year and was named the Lott Trophy winner. Ryans also earned the

in human environmental sciences. Anderson earned his degree in 2005 en route to second team All-SEC honors.

The NFL draft will begin at noon Saturday and will be televised on ESPN.

Peprah, who graduated with his bachelor's degree in 2004 and his master's degree in 2005, ended his career ranked No. 5 on Alabama's career interception return yards list.

Harper, a Prattville native, earned 2005 All-SEC honors and was a Thorpe Award semi-finalist and a 2005 Playboy Pre-Season All-America selection.

Roach earned a second team All-SEC selection in both 2004 and 2005. He also graduated in December 2005 with a degree

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INbrief

from staff reports...

Sixth-ranked Tide takes on Auburn this weekend

With Alabama carrying hot bats and a two-game lead in the SEC standings, their attention is now set on the Auburn Tigers. The Tigers have won three of their last four conference series.

Auburn is led offensively by freshman Mike Bianucci and Tyler Johnstone. Bianucci is hitting .397 with seven home runs and 28 RBIs. Johnstone is batting .337 with 24 RBIs and has swiped 13 bases.

The Tigers pitching staff has struggled most of the season. They head up the rear of the SEC with a 4.89 team ERA.

Auburn is expected to go with a weekend rotation of Brett Butts, Evan Crawford and Chris Dennis.

While the numbers on the stat sheet have not been that impressive, the Tigers have found a way to win, especially as of late.

For a full preview of this weekend's series, visit www.cw.ua.edu.

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- Burke Hall

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